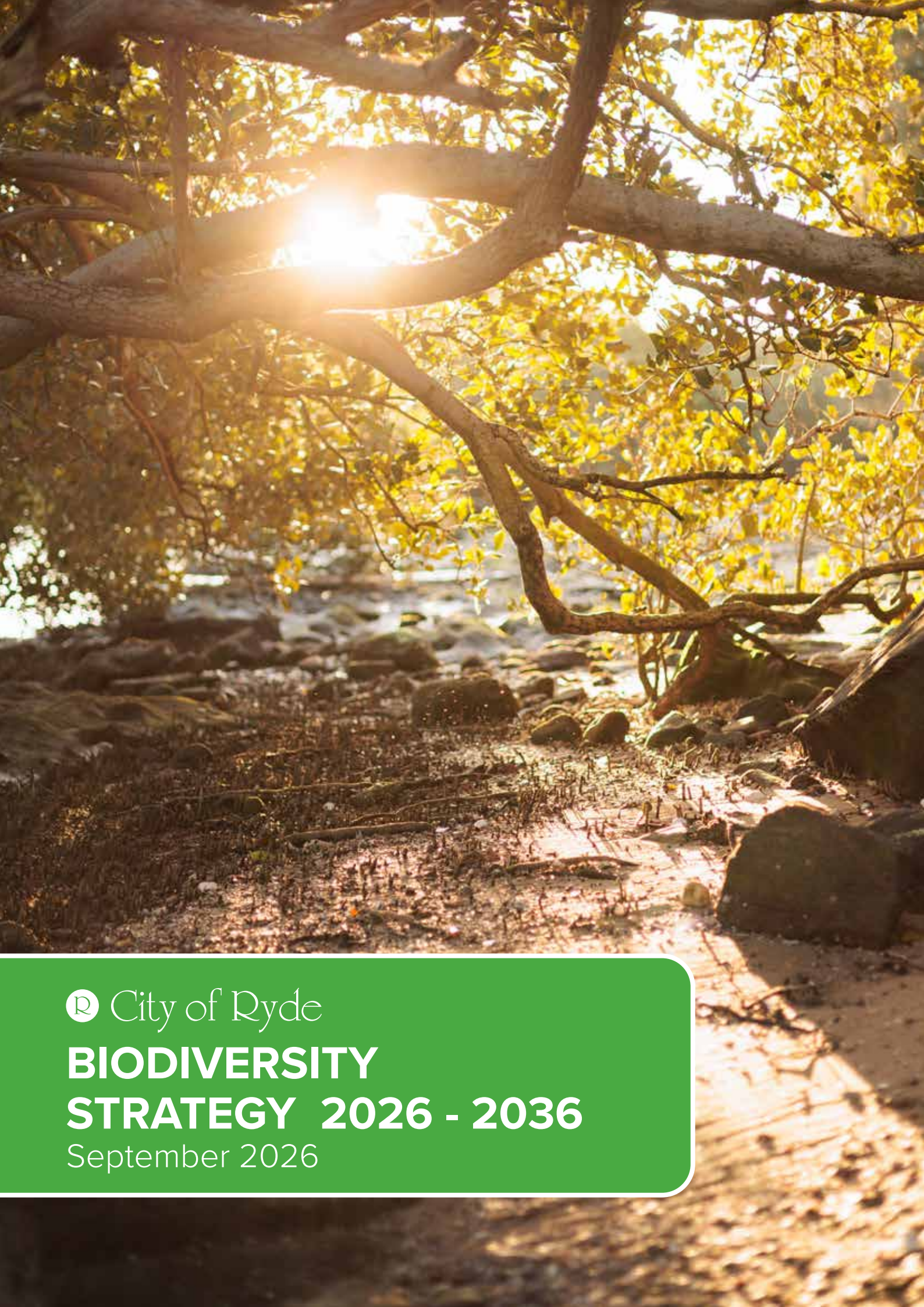


City of Ryde

BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY 2026 - 2036

September 2026



ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

The City of Ryde Council would like to acknowledge the Wallumedegal Aboriginal people, a clan of the Darug Nation, who are the Traditional Custodians of this Land. We would also like to pay respect to the Elders both past and present of the Darug Nation and extend that respect to all other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

We honour the protection of one of the longest continuous Indigenous cultures and beliefs and pay our respects to the history, culture, language, and contemporary developments of the Indigenous people.

The City of Ryde Council celebrates the inclusion of all people and honours their rights and contribution to Country.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The City of Ryde staff would like to thank the community and stakeholders for providing invaluable insights and perspectives to support the development of the City of Ryde Biodiversity Strategy 2026-2036.

All photos by City of Ryde unless otherwise noted.

Document prepared by Environmental Partnership and Restore.

Above: Pages Creek
Credit: Friends of Lane Cove National Park

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR MAYOR

I am pleased to present the City of Ryde's updated Biodiversity Strategy. This replaces the 2016 Biodiversity Plan and will guide the protection, management, and enhancement of the City's natural areas over the next 10 years. We are fortunate within our local government area to have a rich network of parks, creeks, bushland corridors, foreshores and natural spaces that support local wildlife, strengthen our connection to nature and contribute greatly to the lifestyle our community values. As our City continues to grow and change, it is more important than ever that we protect these precious places and recognise the many benefits they provide. This Strategy sets out a clear direction for improving biodiversity, strengthening ecological connections and supporting a more resilient City by strengthening community wellbeing. By working together with our community, volunteers and government partners, we can ensure Ryde remains a place where both people and nature thrive. Every little bit counts and we want you to understand how you can play your part and what Council's vision is. This Strategy outlines where we want to get to and how we know we have achieved this.



Clr Trenton Brown
City of Ryde
Mayor

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO)

The City of Ryde's Biodiversity Strategy has been developed to provide a practical and strategic framework for managing the City's natural areas and improving biodiversity outcomes across the local government area. This replaces the previous Biodiversity Plan (2016), where in the intervening period Ryde has experienced significant urban growth and increasing challenges for its bushland, waterways and ecological corridors. This Strategy responds to those challenges by outlining our vision and objectives to improve management and strengthen ecosystem function, connectivity and resilience. Healthy natural areas are not only good for biodiversity, but also for community wellbeing, climate resilience and the character of our City. As an organisation, we remain committed to working collaboratively with residents, community groups, volunteers and government partners to protect and enhance Ryde's natural environment for current and future generations. Through the Community Strategic Plan residents have told us the value placed on the natural areas around them. This document outlines the objectives and measures Council has to ensure our actions recognise this value.



John Angilley
City of Ryde
Acting Chief Executive Officer

Buffalo Creek

HOW TO READ THIS STRATEGY ?

This Strategy is structured to guide readers through the elements that define and support the vision for biodiversity in the City of Ryde. The document is divided into the following sections:

1. **Introduction –** This section places the Strategy within the context of Council's local planning and reporting framework. It outlines Council's role in implementing the Strategy and delivering positive biodiversity outcomes.
2. **Biodiversity in the City of Ryde –** This section outlines the history of biodiversity management and status of biodiversity in the City of Ryde. It also identifies key challenges to be addressed over the next ten years.
3. **Our Strategy** – This section outlines how this strategy was developed and its relationship to other Council strategies and plans. It then sets out sets out the vision, guiding principles, desired outcomes, and objectives to achieve those outcomes. It also outlines key action areas and a framework for monitoring and evaluation.

HOW THIS STRATEGY CAN BE USED ?

Stakeholder	How this Strategy can be used
Council	Council has the lead role in implementation of this Strategy. Council will use the Strategy to: • Guide strategic planning to protect and enhance biodiversity. • Align the development of programs, and partnerships with the objectives outlined in this Strategy. • Advocate for increased investment in biodiversity for Ryde. • Monitor and evaluate local biodiversity. • Identify opportunities for collaboration, networking, and partnerships.
Aboriginal people and organisations	This Strategy acknowledges the enduring custodianship of Aboriginal people over Country and seeks to strengthen engagement and collaboration
Residents and community groups	This Strategy aims to educate and inspire the community about how to protect and enhance habitat within their local area. The community is encouraged to: • Use evidence from the Strategy to develop grant applications for initiatives aimed at improving local biodiversity. • Participate in local environmental programs, events, and activities. • Identify gaps and provide feedback to help shape future planning and practices.
NSW Government	This Strategy provides context for NSW Government agencies planning to deliver programs or infrastructure in the City of Ryde or considering funding through grants and other programs. The Strategy aims to assist the NSW Government to: • Understand the needs of Ryde's local biodiversity to inform funding allocations and strategic planning. • Partner with Council to improve biodiversity outcomes. • Identify opportunities for networking and partnerships.
Land development sector	This Strategy provides context to planning and development in the City of Ryde, and objectives should be implemented through development.

THE BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AT A GLANCE

The City of Ryde is committed to protecting and enhancing local biodiversity together with the community and other stakeholders. Nature and biodiversity are critical elements of a healthy, livable urban environment. They contribute to fresh air, clean water and wellbeing

APPROACH

The Biodiversity Strategy outlines Council's commitment for the protection, management and enhancement of natural areas and biodiversity in the City of Ryde over the next ten years.

The Strategy builds on the successes of Council's 2016 Biodiversity Plan and reflects the current legal framework to guide Council's decisions and operations, including engagement with the community.

It is structured to facilitate implementation in the context of Council's other strategies and plans.



Figure 0.1 Biodiversity Strategy preparation - key steps

Ryde Biodiversity Strategy 2026.

WHERE IS BIODIVERSITY IN RYDE FOUND

Biodiversity in Ryde currently focusses on existing open spaces and riparian corridors along rivers and creeks. This strategy seeks to consolidate and enhance these anchor locations as well as to expand biodiversity values into urban areas through streets and residential housing.



Open Spaces

e.g.. Field of Mars Reserve Ryde's largest and most ecologically significant bushland — contains multiple threatened ecological communities



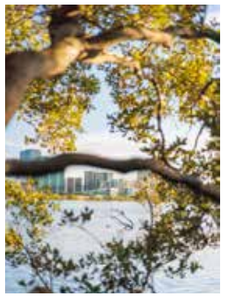
Lane Cove River Corridor

Critical riparian corridor supporting wildlife movement, water quality and flood mitigation across Ryde



Riparian Corridors

Important urban waterways and green corridors



Parramatta River Foreshore

Foreshore habitats supporting shorebirds and mangroves



Urban Neighbourhoods

Habitat opportunities to major and residential streets and to residential housing

THE OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK

The outcomes framework guides decision making and identification of future actions and priorities for managing biodiversity in Ryde.

Vision	Guiding Principles	Outcomes	Objectives	Key Action Areas
The long term destination for biodiversity management in Ryde	Provide the guiding foundations that inform all steps of biodiversity planning and management	Further articulate the visions and provide an organising structure for identification and management of objectives and actions.	Provide specific aims or goals under each of the outcomes implementing the guiding principles	Reflect the types of detailed tasks and activities in 4 year delivery program and annual operational plans.

VISION

"Nature in the City of Ryde is healthy, connected and resilient"

The outcomes and objectives below inform identification of key action areas in section 4 of this strategy.

Detailed actions and tasks required for implementation are documented separately in Council's four-year Delivery Program and annual Operational Plan.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The guiding principles provide the foundation for how we plan to achieve our vision, ensuring we remain focused on the most effective methods and approaches to meet the diversity of challenges present.

They are informed by science, current environmental best practice, Ryde's broader strategic context and the valuable feedback from our community and stakeholders.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1.	**Ecological integrity and resilience**	• protect and enhance the integrity of ecosystems. • retaining key habitat features, ecological processes and connectivity that underpin long-term ecosystem resilience.
2.	**Multifunctional landscapes**	• retaining key habitat features, ecological processes and connectivity that underpin long-term ecosystem resilience. • green infrastructure and nature-based solutions are part of multifunctional landscapes.
3.	**Partnerships & collaboration**	• work in partnership with Aboriginal communities, landholders, community groups, other agencies and industry to design and deliver biodiversity outcomes. • Collaboration, knowledge sharing and co-design is embedded in programs, encouraging shared stewardship.
4.	**Adaptive management**	• apply an adaptive management approach, adjusting management in response to what is learned. • cycle of plan–do–review–improve will ensure biodiversity programs remain responsive to new information, changing conditions and community expectations.
5.	**Leadership**	• show leadership by integrating biodiversity considerations into strategic planning, decision-making and operations. • clear roles, responsibilities, targets and transparent reporting will support accountability for delivering on objectives.

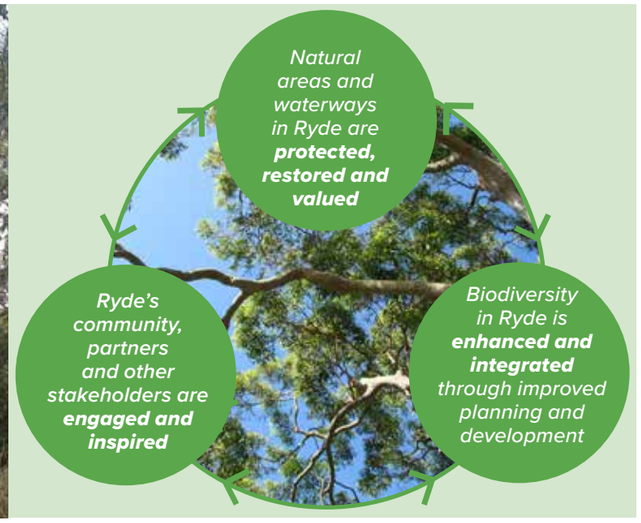
OUTCOMES AND OBJECTIVES

OUTCOMES

Outcomes define our key goals and priorities and represent the long-term vision for biodiversity in Ryde.

Three desired future outcomes for biodiversity in Ryde form the second tier of the Vision, reflect the priorities and articulate the key themes of the Ryde Biodiversity Strategy 2026-2036.





OUTCOMES AND OBJECTIVES TABLE

Outcomes	Objectives
*Natural areas and waterways in Ryde are **protected, restored and valued***	Objective 1: Protect areas of high biodiversity value Objective 2: Expand and connect natural areas Objective 3: Support recovery of threatened flora and fauna species Objective 4: Improve the condition of threatened ecological communities Objective 5: Enhance riparian and aquatic ecosystems
*Biodiversity in Ryde is **enhanced and integrated** through improved planning and development*	Objective 6: Incorporate nature-based solutions, green infrastructure and biodiversity-sensitive design in Council's projects Objective 7: Strengthen land use planning and development assessment processes to deliver positive biodiversity outcomes Objective 8: Integrate the environmental impact mitigation hierarchy into Council's land use planning, development controls and operational activities Objective 9: Investigate best practice for local biodiversity offsets
*Ryde's community, partners and other stakeholders are **engaged and inspired***	Objective 10: Facilitate community and stakeholder involvement in on-ground regeneration and restoration Objective 11: Encourage biodiversity enhancement activities in gardens and streetscapes Objective 12: Foster participation in environmental monitoring Objective 13: Raise awareness of biodiversity values and management through education

KEY ACTION AREAS

- Integration with planning instruments and policies
- Investigations and feasibility assessment
- Field validation and detailed assessment
- Securing Funding
- Communications and information sharing
- Revegetation and bush regeneration
- Bushcare program
- Public education
- Advocacy

1 INTRODUCTION



Above: Pages Creek
Credit: Friends of Lane Cove National Park

WHAT IS COUNTRY?

If design and planning processes consider natural systems that include people, animals, resources and plants equally – similar to an Aboriginal world view – this could make a significant contribution to a more sustainable future.

To Aboriginal people, the traditional custodians, Country encompasses everything. It includes both living and non-living elements. It holds everything within the landscape, including Earth, Water and Sky Country, as well as people, animals, plants, and the stories that connect them. (Connecting with Country, NSW Government Architect 2023)

Caring for Country is a cultural obligation that Aboriginal people undertake with a deep sense of responsibility, ownership and stewardship. Caring for Country includes caring for the well-being of Country's interconnected systems now and for the future. (Connecting with Country, NSW Government Architect 2023)

Thinking differently about Country

Prioritising people and their needs is widely regarded as fundamental in contemporary design and planning processes.

If people and their needs are at the "centre" of design considerations, then the landscape and nature are reduced to second-order priorities. If design and planning processes consider natural systems that include people, animals, resources and plants equally – similar to an Aboriginal world view – this could make a significant contribution to a more sustainable future.

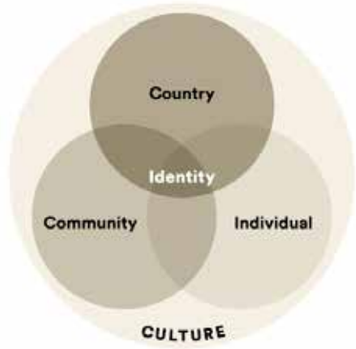


Figure 1.1 Interrelationships between Country, community and individuals.
Source: NSW Govt Better Placed Connecting with Country 2023

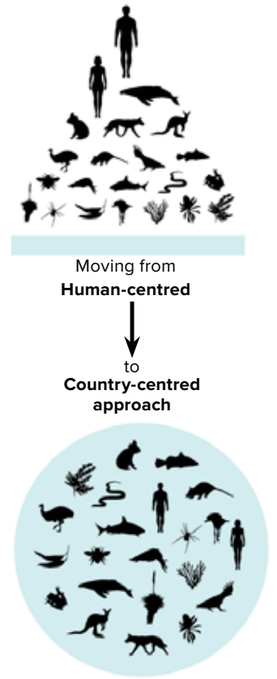


Figure 1.2 Moving from a Human-centred to a Country-centred
Source: NSW Govt Better Placed Connecting with Country 2023 (adapted from German architect Steffen Lehmann, 2010)

WHAT IS NATURE ?

Nature encompasses both living (biotic) components—such as organisms and ecosystems—and nonliving (abiotic) components like climate, soil, and geology, plus the interactions between them.

People and societies are part of nature, rather than existing outside nature.



WHAT IS BIODIVERSITY ?

"Biodiversity is the variety of all living things — the species, habitats and ecological processes that together make a place function."



Every native plant, animal, insect and microorganism — from powerful owls and grey-headed flying foxes to native orchids and soil fungi



The range of environments that support life — bushland, riparian corridors, wetlands, urban tree canopy, foreshore and waterways



The natural functions that keep ecosystems working — pollination, water filtration, nutrient cycling, seed dispersal, flood mitigation

Biological diversity, or biodiversity, is the variety of life forms in all terrestrial (land) and aquatic (water) environments on Earth. There are three levels of biodiversity:

- Genetic – the variety of genetic information contained in individual plants, animals and micro-organisms.
- Species – the variety of species of plants, animals, fungi and micro-organisms.
- Ecosystems – the variety of habitats, ecological communities and ecological processes. An ecosystem is a dynamic combination of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment (e.g. soil, water and the climatic regime) interacting as a functional unit, e.g. Coastal Saltmarsh.

Biodiversity is interconnected, interdependent and constantly changing. It can be increased by genetic change and evolutionary processes or reduced by threats such as habitat clearing or disease which can lead to population decline and extinction.

COUNCIL'S ROLE IN ACHIEVING BIODIVERSITY OUTCOMES

Council plays a key role in achieving biodiversity outcomes across the City of Ryde. Its responsibilities include:

LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY

Leadership: Council ensures that biodiversity planning and management protects, sustains, and enhances biodiversity in Ryde. Council's approach aligns with community needs and perspectives and recognises the importance of natural areas and ecologies to both the health of our environment, and the mental health and social wellbeing of our community.

Advocacy: We advocate for funding, infrastructure, and policy changes to support natural systems and green infrastructure.

Custodian of community aspirations: Council upholds the community's diverse voices, strengthening our social fabric through diverse and inclusive experiences in nature.

RESEARCH, ENGAGEMENT, AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Research and planning: We gather evidence and data to inform planning and management of natural areas and natural systems.

Engagement: We listen to stakeholders and incorporate their feedback into policies and strategies.

Policy development: Council creates strategies that respond to environmental challenges and conserve and enhance the environment for future generations.

BUILDING CONNECTIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Build connections: We connect with residents, other landholders and stakeholders to make effective decisions around biodiversity management.

Build partnerships: We collaborate with government agencies, other land managers and environmental bodies and organisations to achieve shared biodiversity and environmental outcomes.

Capacity building: We work with other land managers, environmental groups and the community to build the biodiversity values of our open space network, and other related opportunities for green infrastructure.

SERVICE PROVISION AND INFRASTRUCTURE DELIVERY

Government grants and sponsorships: Council seeks Commonwealth and State Government grants and sponsorships to optimise enhancements of our natural areas and habitats.

Service provision: We deliver environmental programs across the open space network.

Infrastructure delivery: We invest in works to facilitate biodiversity outcomes, to facilitate healthy lifestyles, provide for active transport, and promote social connections and safety.

Asset management: We manage strategies to ensure that natural areas are in the best possible condition in the most cost-effective manner.

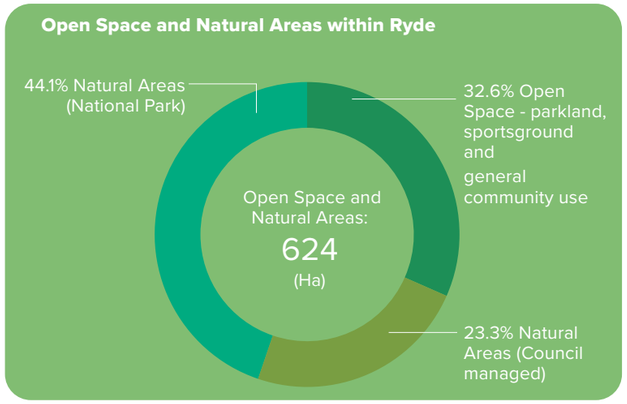
BIODIVERSITY IN RYDE AT A GLANCE

Natural areas

The City of Ryde has approximately 420 ha of natural areas which account for 10.5% of the overall area of Ryde LGA (4065 Ha).

This comprises 145 ha of natural areas within Council-owned or managed open space. Council natural area reserves include:

- 52.29 ha regional parks
- 72.24 ha district parks
- 17.21 ha neighbourhood parks
- 3.54 ha pocket parks



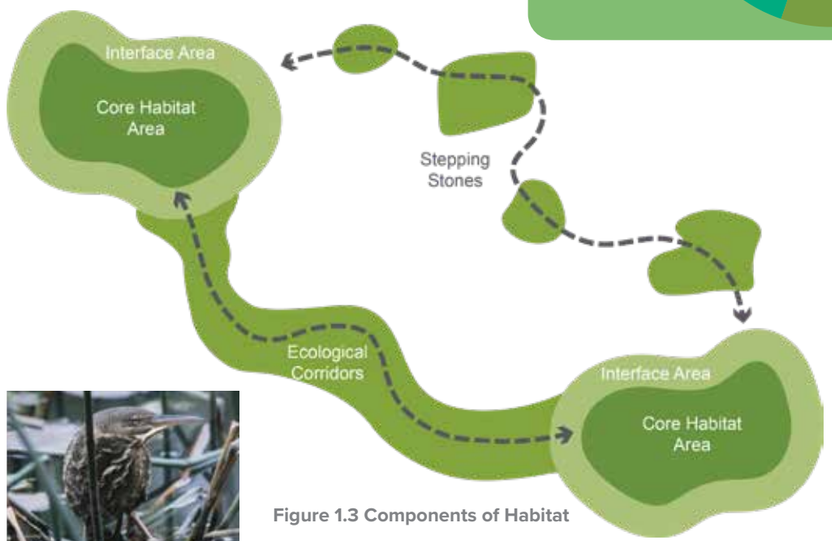


Figure 1.3 Components of Habitat

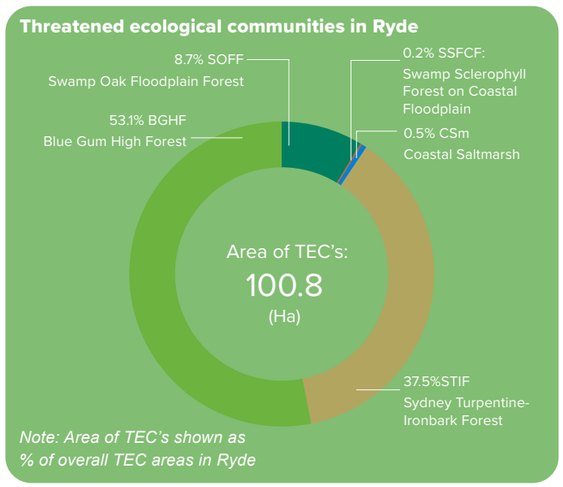
Black Bittern image: OEH



Red-crowned Toadlet image: OEH



Little Lorikeet image: OEH



Habitat

Core habitat in Ryde are areas of sufficient ecological size and quality that it supports key life-cycle needs .These areas must be protected and managed.

Interface or transition areas are at the edges of core habitat. They buffer the impact of adjacent land uses

Ecological corridors include bushland and creek corridors and facilitate the continuity of habitat and movement of wildlife.

Stepping stones are small, disconnected patches that are mainly used by highly mobile species to move between corridors and core habitat.

TEC's

There are five **Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC's) which** are listed under provisions in the BC Act or EPBC Act as under threat of long term viability and survival.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS

The 2016 Ryde Biodiversity Plan has guided implementation by Ryde Council of a range of activities each year that seek to address identified priorities, and work within the limitations of available funding and resourcing.

The following summary outlines some of the key achievements over the 10 year period.

Planning / design
- Saltmarsh Management Plan
- Macquarie Uni Project on Wildlife Protection Areas

Wildlife Protection Areas
- Field of Mars Reserve, Terrys Creek and Kittys Creek
- Feral Animal Control

Flora and Fauna surveys 2018
- Blue Gum High Forest Reserves, Northern Reserves, Parramatta River Reserves and Shrimptons Creek Reserves

Communications
- Bush-friendly Neighbour Brochure
- Companion Animals flier and video
- Weed Watch Ryde Campaign
- Habitat Havens for Native Birds
- River aware campaign
- Wildlife Friendly netting
- Biodiversity Education Strategy
- Love your Waterways Program

Corridor planting
- Blenheiarvall Park, ELS Hall Park, Field of Mars Reserve, Flinders Park, Forsyth Park, Kittys Creek, Looking Glass Bay Park, Mallee Reserve, Olympic Park, Portius Park, Shrimptons Creek, Tuckwell Park, Waterloo Park
- Tree Give-aways

Delineation of natural areas
- Kissing Point Park, Koonadan Reserve, Lucknow Park, Lynn Park, Marsfield Park, McCauley Park, Pellisier Rd, Plassey Rd, Settlers Park, Stewart Park, and Waterloo Park

Bushland Signage
- Blue Gum High Forest Reserves
- Bundara Reserve
- Kittys Creek Reserves
- Upper Buffalo Creek Reserves
- Field of Mars Reserve
- Stewart Park
- Terrys Creek Reserves

Water quality monitoring
- Water quality monitoring biannually at Archers, Buffalo, Shrimptons, Terrys, and Porters Creeks
- Streamwatch monitoring monthly at 11 Bushcare sites

Walking trails
- Walking Trail Audit
- Walking Trail Upgrade at Kittys Creek
- Field of Mars Nature trails grant

INSIGHTS FROM THE COMMUNITY

The development of the City of Ryde's Biodiversity Strategy 2026 included online consultation with the general community and face to face consultation with environmental community groups such as bushcare

GENERAL COMMUNITY

Consultation with the community was facilitated through a 'Have Your Say' page including:

- survey questions
- general comments
- social pinpoint mapping

Key responses to survey are summarised opposite.

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS

- there has been no growth in community bushcare participation despite population growth
- it would be desirable to further encourage involvement of young people in community bushcare
- lack of community awareness about the value of bushland and biodiversity
- inadequate resources are a key constraint to existing activities and attracting additional participation
- need to focus new community input effectively - education and guidance is required
- potential to provide further information via a "habitat hub"
- previous strategy did not prioritise threatened communities enough
- most recent flora surveys were 2018 - new and further surveys required
- need to clearly identify threatened ecological communities
- areas of sclerophyll dry forest have not had environmental burns - this affects biodiversity outcomes
- potential for more targeted habitat enhancement to encourage biodiversity - e.g. specific plant species supporting important fauna / birds
- potential to expand seed library and seed sharing programs
- potential to establish a native bee program to address decline in local pollination
- assist community to better understand importance of managing domestic pets near natural areas
- encourage and require better habitat and biodiversity outcomes from higher density developments
- some participants have noticed increases in bird-life in areas subject to bushcare
- relationship to Lane Cove National park is valuable and collaboration with National Parks and Wildlife service is important.

INTEGRATED OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

Consultation for the Integrated Open Space Strategy 2025-2035, also revealed insights of relevance to the Biodiversity Strategy:

The highest community priority for improvements to recreational spaces was for:

- **natural areas / bushland 78%**
- **parks 75%**
- **walking/cycling trails 74%**

Priorities for 'more future planning focus' included:

- **Natural areas 55%**
- **walking/cycle trails 53%**



VOLUNTEERS

VOLUNTEERING

Volunteers, such as Bushcare participants and Friends of Lane Cove National Park members, can broadly be categorised as follows:

- Regular, long-term volunteers
- Short-term volunteers
- Irregular volunteers
- Corporate volunteers
- Citizen science volunteers

Groups use a variety of methods to recruit volunteers e.g. word-of-mouth, letterbox drops, connections with schools and corporates, advertising on websites such as SEEK.

Some of the challenges for volunteer bushcare groups include:

- Recruitment and retention
- Limited numbers of qualified, experienced supervisors
- Lack of awareness or supervision resulting in harm, e.g. accidental removal of threatened flora .

Volunteer hours provided to restore and manage bushlands (Bushcare):

3,417 hrs *

* *Average annual hours of volunteer contributions (City of Ryde 2035 Community Strategic Plan*

Benefits of volunteer Bushcare

Volunteers have been instrumental in enabling Council to implement its ongoing Bushcare programs including

- **Corridor weed control and assisted regeneration activities**
- **Delineation works to better separate / provide buffers between habitat areas and managed parkland areas**
- **Habitat Nursery activities**
- **Community advocacy and education**

Figure 2.3 opposite illustrates community volunteer work sites along with Councils ongoing Bushcare contract work sites







Top: The Habitat Nursery volunteers
Credit: The Habitat Nursery

Centre and bottom: Pages Creek - Friends of Lane Cove NP
Credit: Araceli Parraguez

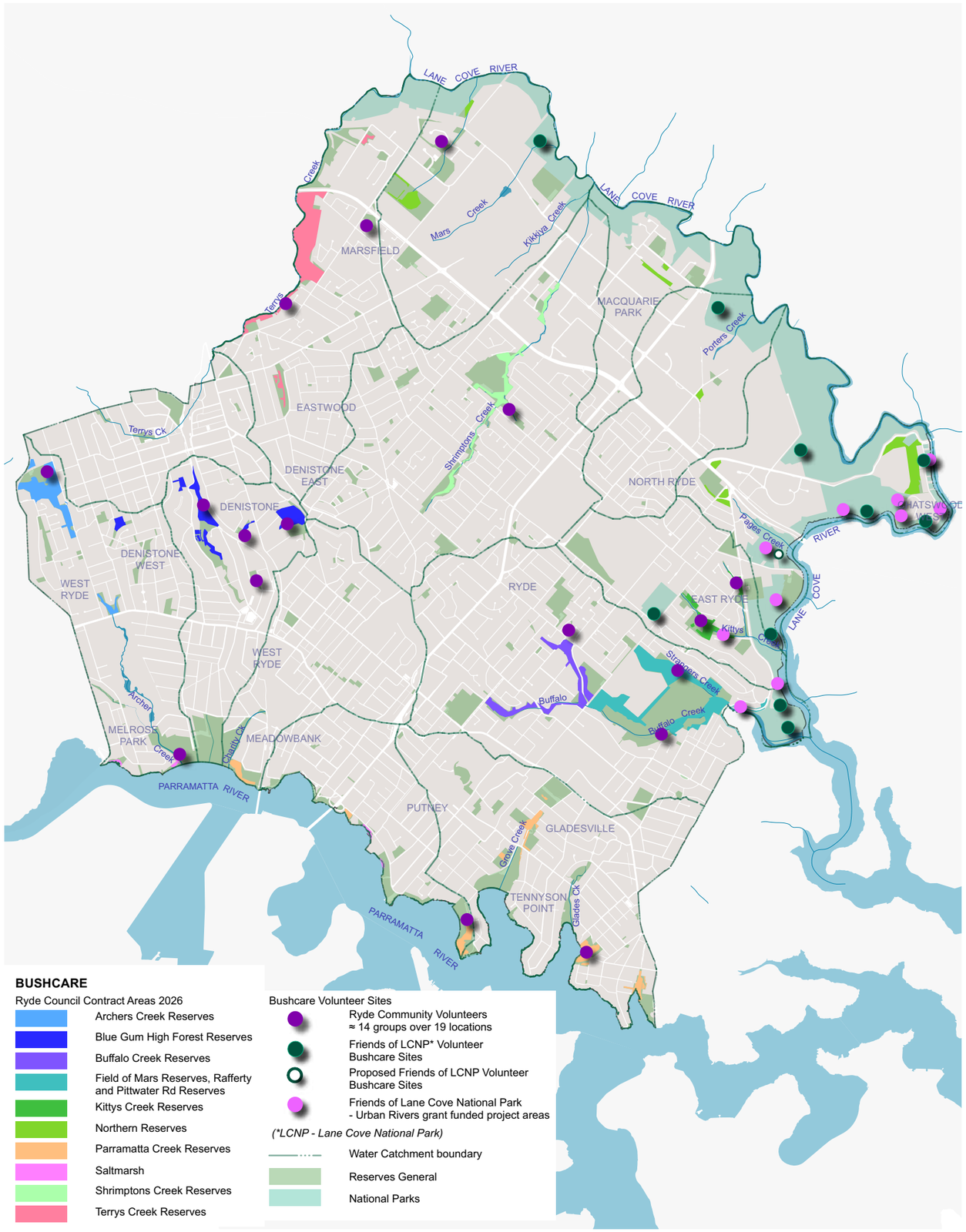
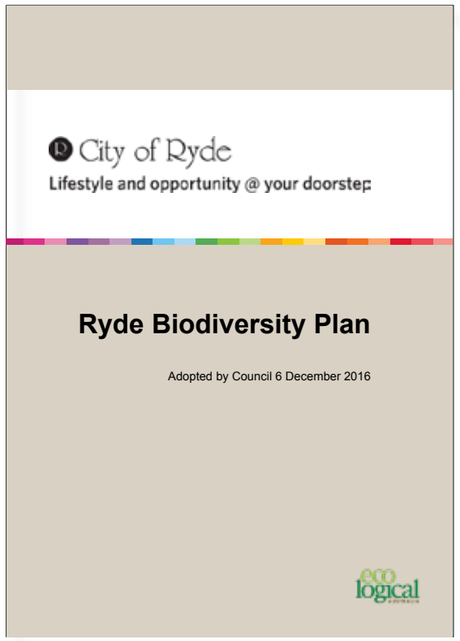
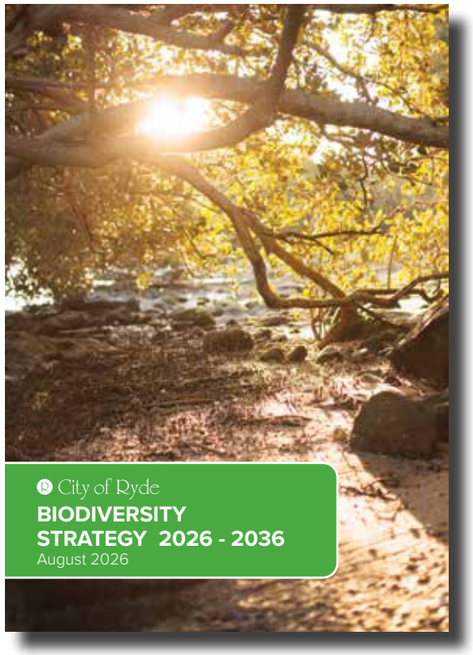


Figure 1.4 Bushcare contracts and community volunteer sites
Ryde Biodiversity Strategy 2026

WHY IS AN UPDATED BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY NEEDED?



2016 Ryde Biodiversity Plan



2026 Ryde Biodiversity Strategy

Biodiversity planning is about keeping ecosystems functioning and resilient so they can continue to provide the physical processes that sustain the environment and life. These include clean air and fresh water, food and medicines, climate regulation, protection from natural disasters, and spaces for recreation and mental well-being.

The City of Ryde developed its first Biodiversity Plan in 2016 in consultation with the community. Council's 2016 Biodiversity Plan aimed to assist management, enhancement and protection of natural areas and biodiversity in the City of Ryde.

The 2016 Biodiversity Plan needs updating to reflect changes in on-ground conditions, legislation and policies, and threats and pressures. It also needs to address current community concerns and interests.

In addition the preparation of a new and updated Biodiversity Strategy, should address the new challenges of current times including:

- the evolving process of climate change including our increased understanding of related processes and opportunities for mitigation
- the drive for increased housing density to slow urban sprawl in Sydney and take advantage of enhanced / sustainable transport services to key locations
- a broader policy shift by Government and Land Managers to offsetting of biodiversity impacts

This Biodiversity Strategy complements but does not prescribe management of NSW Government reserves within the Ryde LGA. This is addressed through other mechanisms, such as the Lane Cove National Park Plan of Management.

2 BIODIVERSITY IN THE CITY OF RYDE



2.1 HISTORY

Living in close proximity to natural areas and having varied experiences "in the bush" are very much a part of the Ryde lifestyle.

This is despite the area being significantly cleared for agriculture from the late 1800's onwards.

Now only fragments of the original vegetation communities remain as part of Ryde's ecological legacy.

The City of Ryde lies within the traditional Country of the Wallumedegal people who lived sustainably for thousands of years in a landscape of river flats, mangrove swamps, and creeks. "The First Nations Peoples of the Parramatta River and Surrounding Region" prepared by the Parramatta River Catchment Group, sets out the significance of the "living River" to Aboriginal peoples both in terms of history and living contemporary culture.

The Parramatta, and Lane Cove Rivers and all tributaries have been key places of settlement and movement for Aboriginal peoples for millennia.

Recognising these cultural values and ensuring decision making for natural areas and other open space is done with regard to Country and in collaboration with First Nations stakeholders is fundamental.

The post colonisation European settlement of the area began in 1792 and in contrast to the thousands of years of sustainable stewardship of the land by Aboriginal peoples, brought about severe change.

Most of the bushland in the area over the past 200 years been cleared for agriculture then subsequently urban development.

Some bushland was conserved, generally in areas unsuitable for other land uses. From the 1920s, there was a community push to create a public park along the Lane Cove River, as the farms and orchards in the area were no longer prospering. The park opened in 1938 and became Lane Cove National Park in 1992. Other bushland reserves in the City of Ryde also tend to be located adjacent to waterways.

Ongoing threats to natural areas and biodiversity include habitat clearing, pollution, weeds, pests and inappropriate fire regimes. Climate change is an increasing pressure that will intensify storms, bushfires, floods, droughts and heat stress, and raise sea levels.

Field of Mars Reserve



1943 **1965** **2025**

2.2 BIOREGION AND LANDSCAPE

What is a Bioregion ?

The Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) is a national framework that classifies the whole continent into bioregions and subregions based on dominant landscape-scale environmental attributes.

These attributes include climate, lithology/geology, landform, vegetation, flora and fauna, and (to a lesser extent) land use, combined to capture areas of country where biodiversity patterns are relatively similar.

Mitchell Landscape

NSW (Mitchell) Landscapes provide a classification finer than IBRA bioregions. A Mitchell landscape is a mapped landscape unit used in NSW that groups areas with similar geology, landform, soils, climate and native vegetation into consistent “landscape” types for ecological planning and assessment.

The City of Ryde is within the Sydney Basin Bioregion (NPWS 2003). Mitchell (2002) described two landscapes within the City of Ryde:

- Pennant Hills Ridges within the Hornsby Landscape of the Sydney Basin Bioregion – ‘Rolling to moderately steep hills on horizontal Triassic shales and siltstones. ’
- Port Jackson Basin within the Pittwater Landscape of the Sydney Basin Bioregion – ‘Deep elongated harbour with steep cliffed margins on horizontal Triassic quartz sandstone.



ELS Hall Park - located within the pennant Hills Ridges Landscape



Pages Creek - located within the Port Jackson Basin Landscape

2.3 NATURAL AREA RESERVES

City of Ryde has approximately 420 ha of natural areas within the LGA. According to the City of Ryde Integrated Open Space Strategy 2025-2035, this comprises 275 ha of NSW Government owned natural area reserves plus 145 ha of natural areas within Council-owned or managed open space. Council natural area reserves feature:

- 52.29 ha regional parks
- 72.24 ha district parks
- 17.21 ha neighbourhood parks
- 3.54 ha pocket parks

Refer to Appendix C for the list of reserves and their extent.

This Biodiversity Strategy complements but does not prescribe management of NSW Government reserves within the Ryde LGA. This is addressed through other mechanisms, such as the Lane Cove National Park Plan of Management (NPWS 2016).

The Biodiversity Strategy complements but does not prescribe management of NSW Government reserves within the Ryde LGA. This is addressed through other mechanisms, such as the Lane Cove National Park Plan of Management



Pembroke Park

Natural area reserves

For the purposes of this Biodiversity Strategy, natural area reserves refers to Council community land or Crown Reserves categorised under the LG Act as "Natural Area".

The Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 defines the guidelines for categorisation of a natural area:

"The land (whether in an undisturbed state or not) possesses a significant geological feature, geomorphological feature, landform, representative system or other natural feature or attribute that would be sufficient to further categorise the land as bushland, wetland, escarpment, watercourse or foreshore".

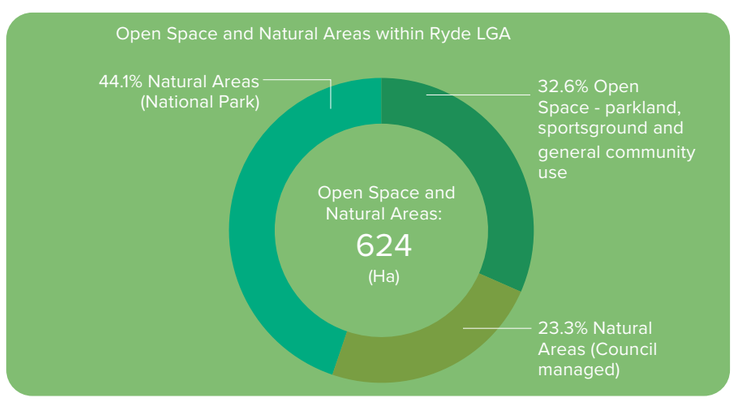


Figure 2.1 Open Space and Natural Areas within Ryde LGA
Ryde Biodiversity Strategy 2026

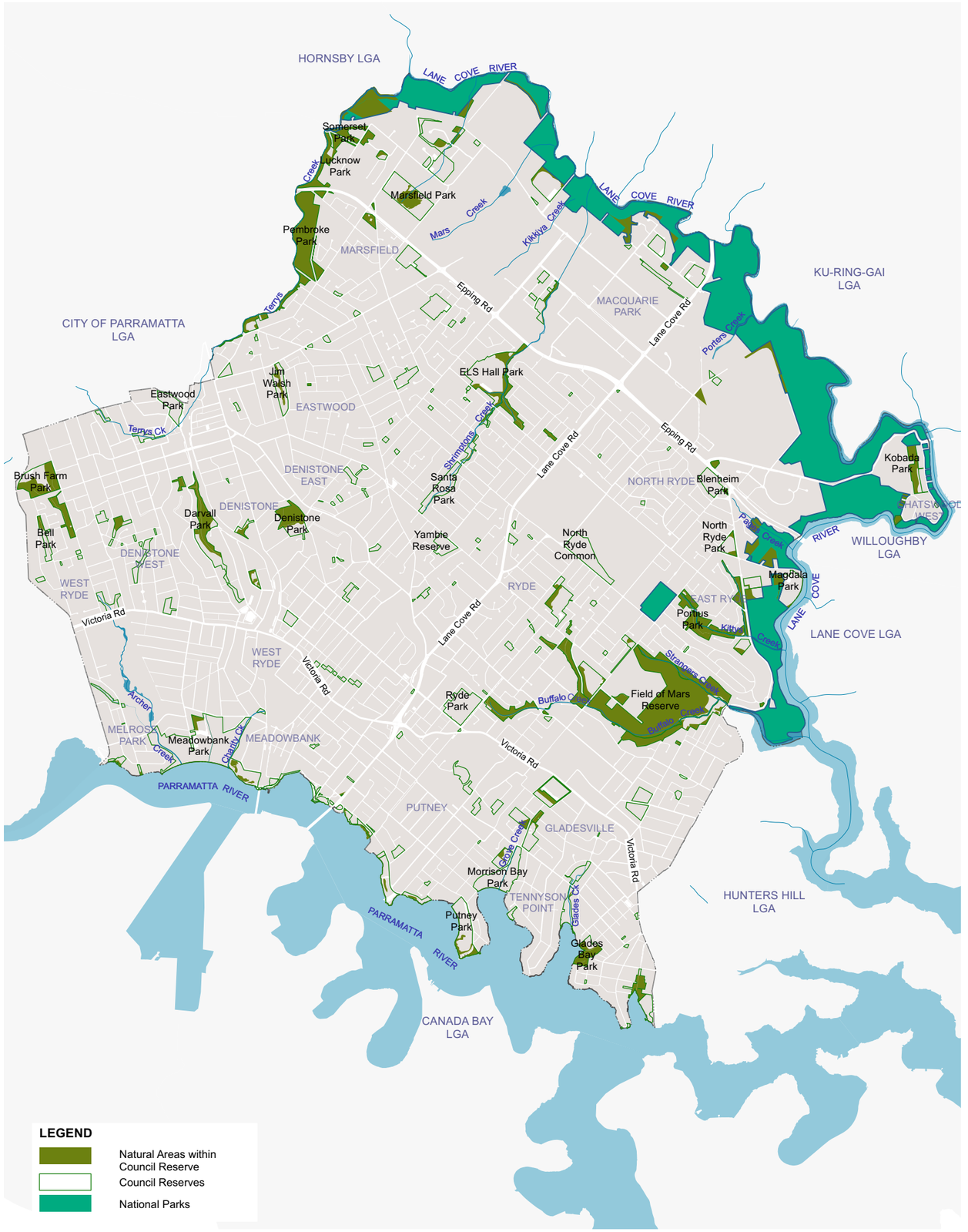


Figure 2.2 Natural Areas in Ryde
Ryde Biodiversity Strategy 2026

2.4 HABITAT

A habitat is the natural environment or area where an organism or population lives, including all the physical (abiotic) and living (biotic) factors it needs to survive, grow and reproduce.

It can be categorised according to its role in the landscape.

CORE HABITAT

Core habitat is an area of sufficient size, ecological structure and condition that it supports key life-cycle needs (feeding, shelter, breeding) for species within its ecosystem. These areas should be protected and managed so that they maintain integrity and resilience.

INTERFACE AREAS

Interface or transition areas are the edges of core habitat. They buffer the impact of adjacent land uses but can contribute to the degradation of core habitat if not carefully managed. Impacts in interface areas include dumped rubbish and garden waste, penetration of light and noise, and changes to hydrologic conditions. Increased management effort will generally be needed with high interface (edge) to core habitat area ratios. Much of the bushland in Ryde has a high edge to area ratio.

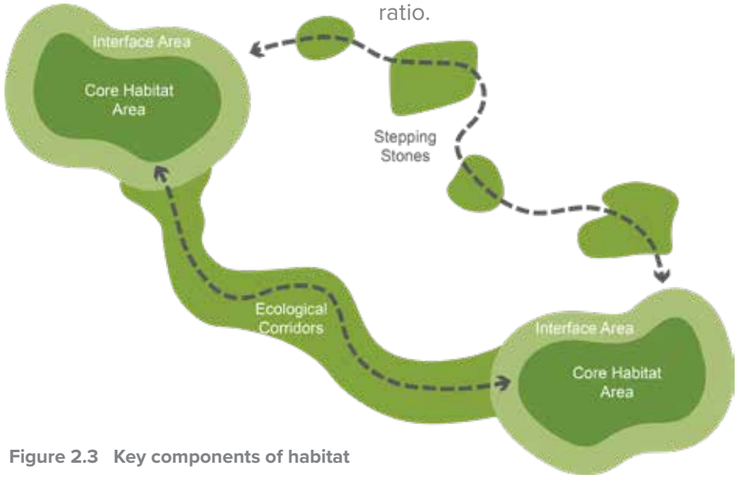


Figure 2.3 Key components of habitat

ECOLOGICAL CORRIDORS

Ecological corridors are also referred to as wildlife corridors as they facilitate the movement of wildlife and genes. Corridors can be wide or narrow swaths of vegetation that connect areas of core habitat. Bushland and aquatic ecosystems along the Lane Cove River and Parramatta River are regional corridors and part of the Greater Sydney 'blue-green grid' (Tyrell Studio 2017).

Refer to section 3.10 for further discussion of corridors.



Field of Mars Reserve - part of a broader ecological corridor

STEPPING STONES

Highly fragmented corridors and small, isolated patches of habitat scattered through the landscape are often referred to as stepping stones. They are mainly used by highly mobile species such as bats and birds. Revegetation between isolated patches of bushland, including planting native species in gardens and streetscapes, can improve ecological connectivity across the landscape.



Powerful Owls *(Simon Tout)*

FAUNA HABITAT

Fauna habitat is characterised by structural and resource features, such as:

- Trees and tree hollows – large old trees, dead stags and branch hollows for roosting, nesting and shelter (e.g. parrots, bats, possums).
- Understorey and ground layer – shrubs, herbs, grasses and leaf litter providing food, nest sites and cover for small mammals, birds, reptiles and invertebrates.
- Logs, coarse woody debris and bush rock – shelter, basking and foraging sites for reptiles, small mammals and invertebrates.
- Waterbodies and riparian zones – rivers, creeks, wetlands, and their vegetated margins used for drinking, breeding and foraging by frogs, fish, turtles and waterbirds.
- Urban structures – culverts, bridges and buildings that provide substitute habitat for adaptable species such as microbats and birds.



Little Corella - Denistone Reserve

2.5 VEGETATION

The State Vegetation Type Map (SVTM) is the most complete and consistent representation of the distribution of plant community type (PCT) across NSW.

- PCTs identify and describe recurring patterns of native plant species assemblages in relation to environmental conditions (soil, temperature, moisture and other factors).
- Each PCT has standard attributes that describe the floristic composition, structure, habitat and distribution across NSW.

There are two separate SVTM products: the pre-clearing map and the extant map which shows the distribution of PCTs within the limits of present day native vegetation cover.

Detailed field survey has been conducted in some areas of Ryde to inform the extant map. Additional, current surveys would be required to validate the mapping.

Some of the PCT classifications have been revised since the 2016 Biodiversity Plan and previous ecological surveys. Changes to the PCT master list are managed by the NSW Government and generally occur in an annual update or when a major revision has been completed.

EXTANT PCT'S

The SVTM extant map **Figure 3.4** shows the distribution of the PCTs within the limits of present-day native vegetation cover.

There are currently 23 PCTs, plus one labelled "not classified" mapped within Ryde LGA.

For the remnant PCT's their context (including size and condition class) influences their level of protection and resilience.

Refer to the appendix for mapping of the Pre-Clearing PCT distribution.



Field of Mars Reserve is home to multiple Plant Community Types

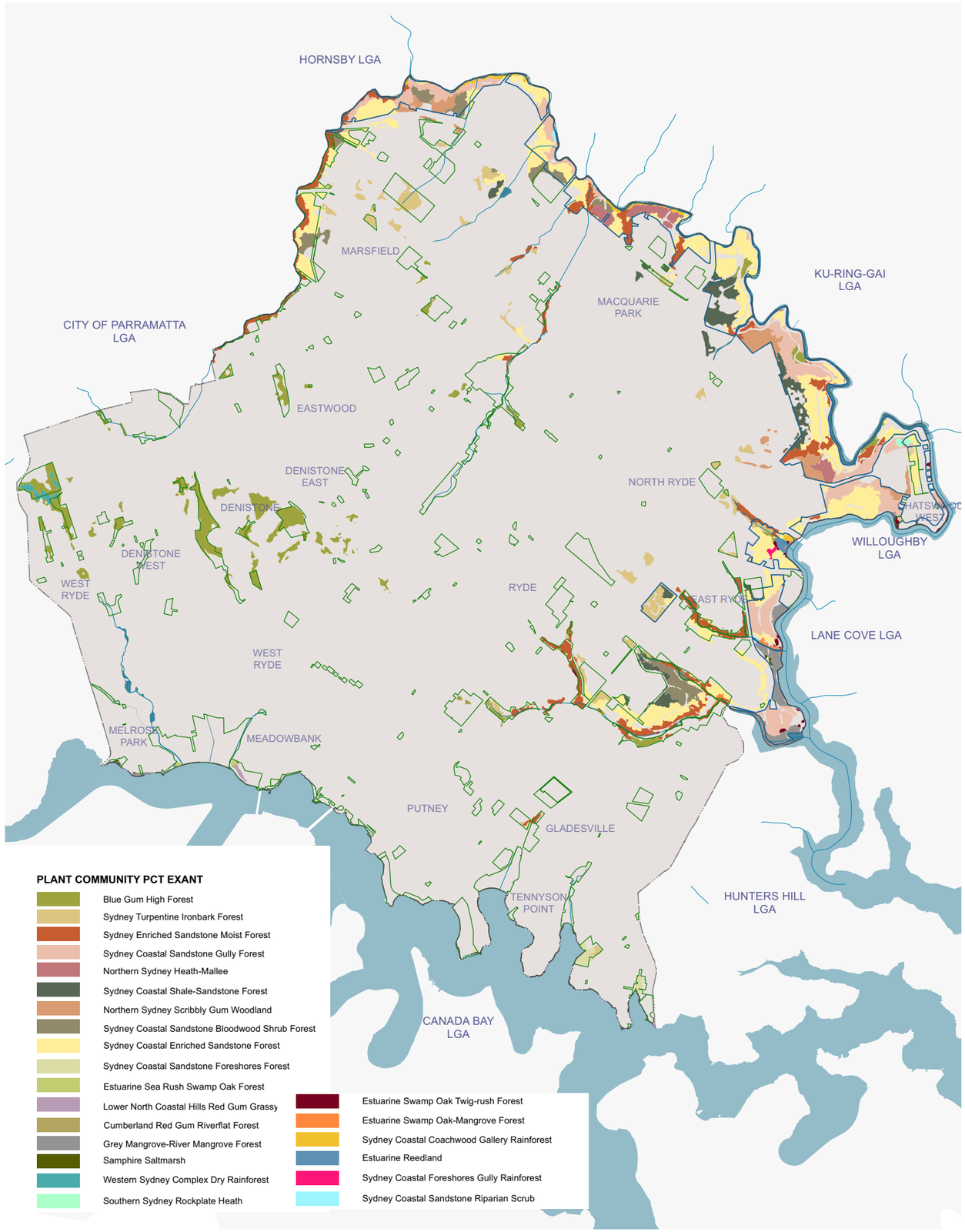


Figure 2.4 PCT EXTANT in Ryde

Ryde Biodiversity Strategy 2026

2.6 FLORA

Data from ecological surveys conducted in reserves within the Ryde LGA between 2005 and 2018 have been submitted to the NSW BioNet Atlas. The dataset indicates more than 570 species of native plants have been recorded in Ryde's natural areas.

The 2016 Ryde Biodiversity Plan noted the trend of declining conservation status of native flora, including localised extinctions. A total of 13 threatened flora species listed under the NSW and/ or Commonwealth legislation were recorded in the 2016 Plan, with only five of these species located in City of Ryde reserves and one of these was presumed extinct.

THREATENED FLORA

Current threatened species information for Ryde LGA has been sourced from NSW BioNet Atlas 2026, based on an event date range from 2005 to August 2026.

15 threatened species are listed with 86 records. 6 of the species recorded are outside their naturally occurring range and are likely to be planted specimens.

There is potential that 2018 and 2017 Ryde Flora and Fauna survey data has not been included on BioNet.



Epacris purpurascens var purpurascens image: OEH/ Orkology



Doryanthes palmeri image: OEH



Syzygium paniculatum image: OEH/ Orkology



Melaleuca deanii image: Australian Plant Society NSW



Darwinia biflora image: OEH/ Orkology



Pimelea curviflora var curviflora image: OEH/ DEC

2.7 FAUNA

SIGNIFICANT TREES

The Significant Tree Register was created to recognise and preserve trees with unique historical, cultural or botanical significance and also acknowledges the significant value of Avenue plantings and stands of trees. These trees enrich the city's heritage and contribute to a healthier environment. Listing within the register increases protection, particularly with regards to development.

The register includes trees on public spaces and privately owned properties and offers guidelines for their responsible management and protection for future generations.

The register is continually evolving, as trees reach the end of their life cycle and new additions are recognized. The register operates as a centralised database, providing detailed information about each tree and its significance. However, removal of trees is not prohibited, and approval for maintenance or minor pruning is processed through the Council's Tree Management Application process.

Significant trees include native non endemic and exotic tree species.

Fauna surveys within Ryde LGA have been previously undertaken (2006, 2007 and 2008) and (2016, 2017 and 2018). Fauna sightings have also been recorded by contractors during bush regeneration activities.

Ryde is typical of most highly urbanised LGA's within Sydney that have seen a pattern of biodiversity loss over time.

THREATENED FAUNA

Threatened species information for Ryde LGA has been sourced from NSW BioNet Atlas 2026, based on an event date range from 2006 to August 2026.

35 threatened species are listed with 555 records,



Cercartetus nanus image: OEH



Ixobrychus flavicollis image: OEH



Pseudophryne australis image: OEH



Parvipsitta pusilla image: DPIE



Pteropus poliocephalus image: DPIE

2.8 THREATENED ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES

Threatened ecological communities (TECs) are legal entities that are independently listed under provisions in the BC Act or EPBC Act. Independent scientific committees oversee the listing processes in each jurisdiction. TECs are defined using an assemblage of species and an area, and not all are plant assemblages.

TECs recorded in the Ryde LGA are as indicated on Figure 3.5.

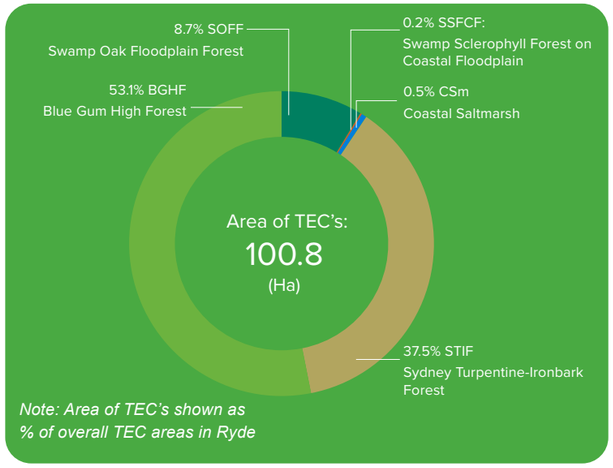


Figure 2.5 Threatened Ecological Communities within Ryde LGA

Ryde Biodiversity Strategy 2026



Blue Gum High Forest - Darvall Park

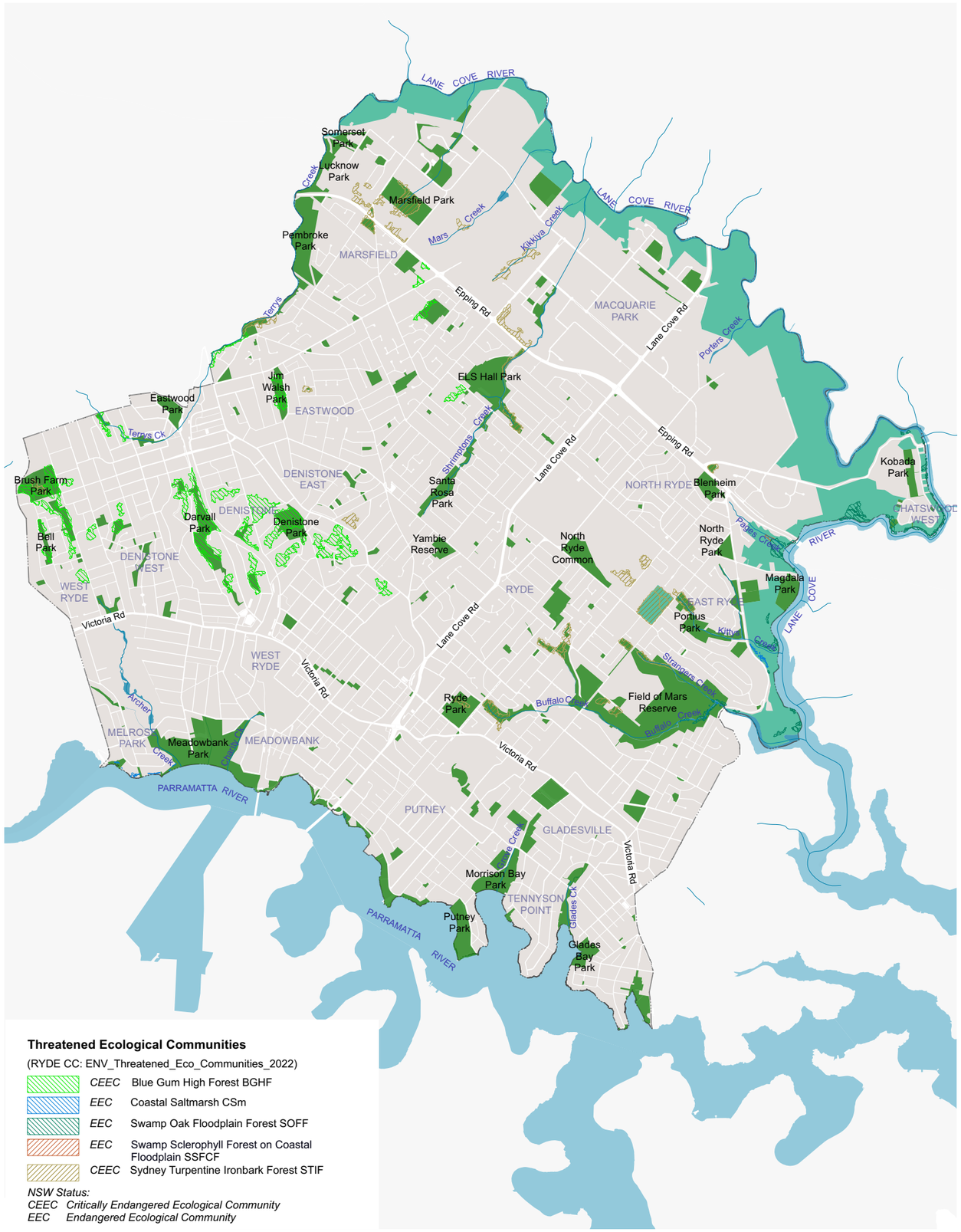


Figure 2.6 Threatened ecological communities in Ryde

Ryde Biodiversity Strategy 2026

2.9 HIGH BIODIVERSITY VALUE AREAS

The NSW Government has mapped high biodiversity value areas (the Biodiversity Values Map) to inform decisions about development assessment related to the Biodiversity Offset Scheme. The map is prepared by the DCCEEW under Part 7 of the Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017 based on the following land types (DCCEEW 2025):

- Coastal wetlands and littoral rainforest
- Core koala habitat identified in an approved koala plan of management
- Declared Ramsar wetlands
- Land containing threatened species or TECs identified as having potential for serious and irreversible impacts
- Biodiverse riparian land
- High conservation value grasslands or groundcover
- Old growth forest identified in mapping developed under the national forests policy statement
- Rainforest identified in mapping developed under the national forests policy statement
- Declared areas of outstanding biodiversity value
- Council nominated areas with connectivity or threatened species habitat recommended to the Minister
- Any other land that in the opinion of the environment agency head is of sufficient biodiversity value to be included

The BC Act allows local governments to nominate land to add to the Biodiversity Values Map for consideration by the Minister for the Environment. The land must contain vegetation connectivity features or threatened species habitat and be of bio-regional or state significance. DCCEEW is developing guidelines for council-proposed additions to the Biodiversity Values Map.

The online map is regularly updated and should be referred to rather than the static map below.

There are no Areas of Outstanding Biodiversity Values within the Ryde LGA, as defined under the BC Act.

WILDLIFE PROTECTION AREAS

Wildlife Protection Areas are public places set aside for the protection of native wildlife under the Companion Animals Act 1998. To better protect our unique native wildlife, the City of Ryde has declared Wildlife Protection Areas in three high conservation bushland corridors.

- Field of Mars Reserve,
- Kittys Creek corridor
- Terrys Creek corridor.

These areas were endorsed by Council on 27 August 2019.

There are two categories of Wildlife Protection Areas in the City of Ryde and these areas are outlined below.

- Category 1: No cats or dogs allowed at all times
- Category 2: No cats allowed at all times, dogs permitted on leash along established tracks.

These areas are declared Wildlife Protection Areas under the Companion Animals Act 1998 sections 14 (1.h) & 30 (1.b)



Buffalo Creek / Field of Mars Reserve

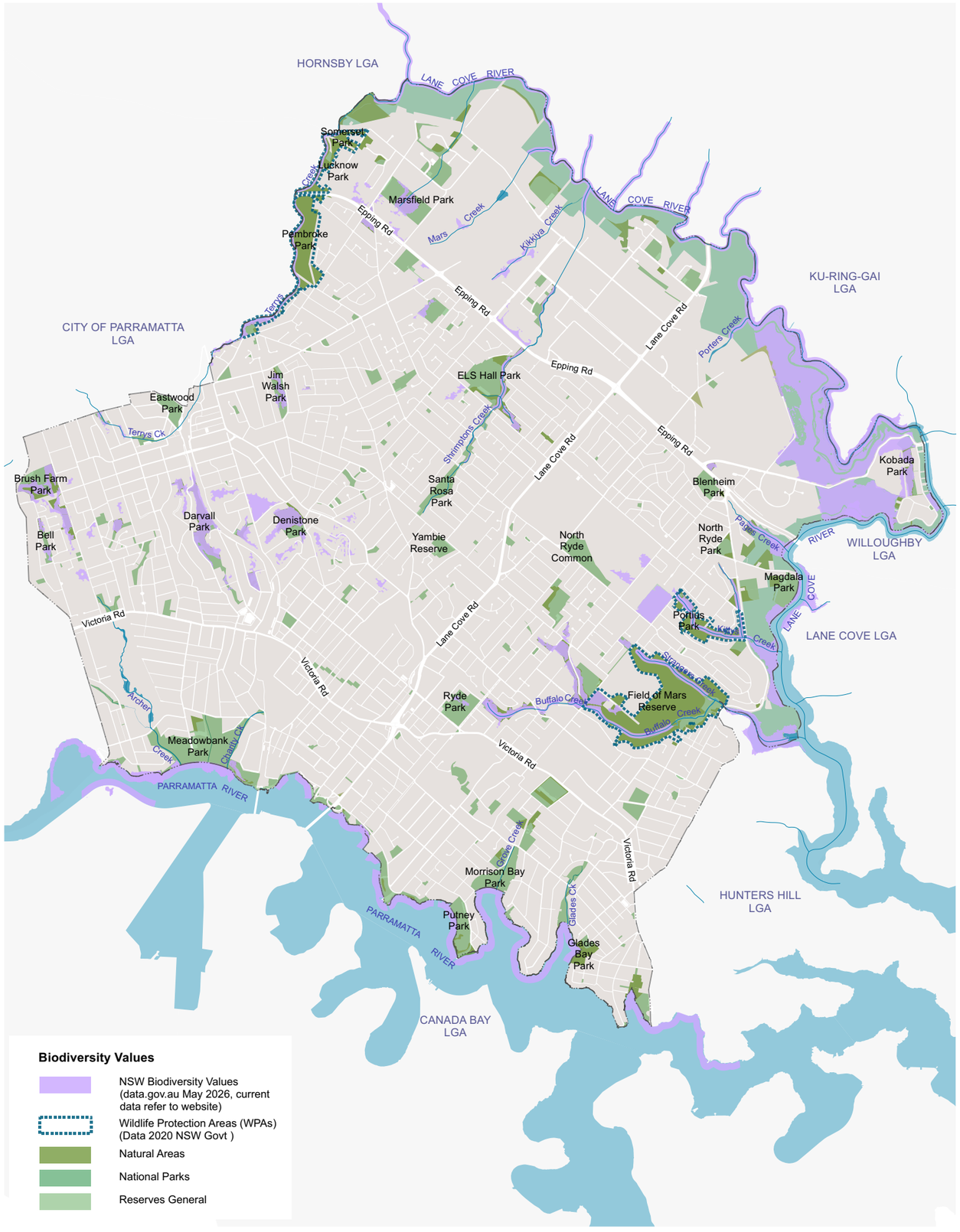


Figure 2.7 High biodiversity values areas in Ryde

Ryde Biodiversity Strategy 2026

2.10 CORRIDORS

As noted in 3.4 wildlife corridors are important contributors to fauna habitat quality. However, beyond their contribution to habitat, open space corridors typically fulfil multiple roles including for hydrology and for recreational trails.

The most functional wildlife corridor within the Ryde LGA occurs along the Lane Cove River, where vegetation comprising Lane Cove National Park forms a corridor connecting to the riparian habitats of the Parramatta River.

However, overall within the majority of Ryde LGA, the connectivity of bushland areas is discontinuous and interrupted by roads and developed areas.

The principle of conserving and reinforcing green corridors is anchored in NSW Government Policy and Strategy including the Green and Blue Webs, and in strategies such as Breathable Sydney by the Committee for Sydney, in which the "Ryde Greenways" are item 13.

Figure 3.7 shows the local and regional connectivity, which is based on a review of previous studies and desktop mapping analysis.

REGIONAL CORRIDORS

The regional biodiversity connectivity occurs primarily along the Lane Cove and Parramatta Rivers.

LOCAL CORRIDORS

Local connections are mapped within Ryde LGA. Of these:

- Two are connected with the regional Parramatta River corridor.
- Five local connections extend from the Lane Cove River regional corridor.
- A local connection extends from the Terry's Creek regional corridor.

OTHER POTENTIAL CONNECTIONS

Other potential connections that have scope to play a role in habitat connectivity include:

A The existing County Road Reserve which is unlikely to be invoked for vehicular transport infrastructure and offers potential for a multifunctional linkage including active transport and habitat connectivity

B Gaps between existing corridors which could be prioritised to improve connectivity

C Greenlinks Masterplan opportunities for ecological connections



Smooth-barked Apple - Red Bloodwood open forest in Pembroke Park

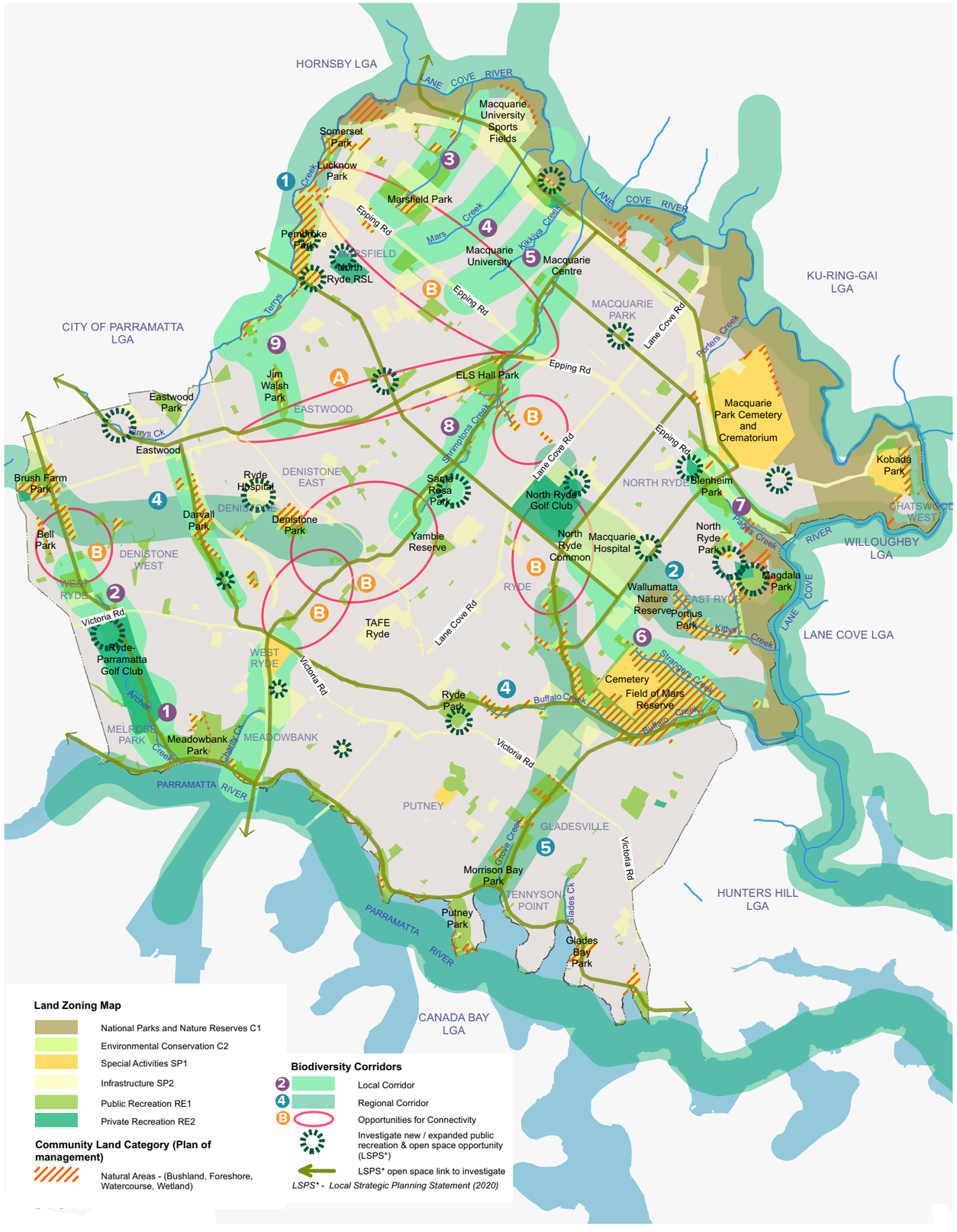


Figure 2.8 Corridor strategies -2016 Biodiversity Strategy and recent planning

Ryde Biodiversity Strategy 2026

2.11 THREATS AND CHALLENGES TO BE OVERCOME

The 2016 Biodiversity Plan informed Council's operational planning and funding, and supported grant funding applications. However, pressures on local biodiversity continue.

The main threats to Ryde's biodiversity are ongoing habitat loss and fragmentation, pollution, invasive species, and direct human disturbance. Climate change is an overarching pressure that can cause heat-stress and reduce habitat quality.

HABITAT CLEARING

Habitat loss and fragmentation from urban expansion and densification are the primary drivers of biodiversity decline in the Ryde LGA.

INVASIVE AND OVERABUNDANT SPECIES

Invasive and over-abundant species out-compete or prey on natives and transform ecosystems where they become dominant.

Council and the community have shared responsibilities to control pests and weeds under the NSW Biosecurity Act 2015.

Ongoing challenges include:

Weed management

Council recognises that early detection of priority weeds is the most cost effective way to manage weeds. Council are currently targeting six priority weeds that have the ability to impact our bushlands and community.

Pests

The locally observed impacts by pests, like the Varroa mite to bee populations on pollination and seed production mean that bee populations require assistance.

Invasive / overabundant bird species

Species such as the Noisy Miner, Common Myna and Rainbow Lorikeet continue to dominate the Ryde area. Changing planting structures within gardens and parklands can enable the re-establishment of more favourable habitat for smaller bird species which once dominated the landscape.

Disease

The City of Ryde monitors and plans for soil-borne pathogens, such as Phytophthora in local reserves to protect vulnerable urban bushland vegetation.

POLLUTION AND ALTERED URBAN ENVIRONMENTS

Changes to air, water and soil quality and increases in noise, and artificial light, degrades habitats and interferes with species behaviour, physiology and reproduction. Local examples include:

- Macro and microplastics pollution in runoff
- Light directed into bushland or night-sky

INAPPROPRIATE FIRE REGIMES

There is growing community support for ecological burns and cultural burns, which are planned, low-intensity fires. Both use fire to care for land, but they differ in purpose, authority, and practice.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change and urban heat islands compound other pressures on biodiversity, pushing sensitive species beyond physiological limits and altering species interactions. Local examples include:

- Climate impacting the maintenance and quality of open space areas
- Climate change is placing a greater requirement for Council to consider stormwater asset capacity, which can impact natural areas.

OTHER CHALLENGES

Other challenges that have been identified since the 2016 Biodiversity Plan include:

Resources

- No in-house biodiversity officer for DA assessments or other matters
- Lack of budget dedicated to biodiversity and limited resources allocated to biodiversity

Education and Understanding

- Simply having a biodiversity policy/strategy does not just make people value biodiversity
- Limited biodiversity awareness for visitors and locals
- More awareness around biodiversity-sensitive design
- Increased visitation / tourism demand for bush walking and bushland areas
- Spaces are being used more for social/cultural gatherings

On-ground management

- Conflict uses, such as retaining long grass for habitat
- Public domain cleaning – resulting in the removal of native vegetation during works and the subsequent loss of habitat and food sources for wildlife
- Loss of deep soil areas
- Increase in use of synthetic turf.

Comparison of Council staff resourcing per 100 hectares of Natural Areas:

City of Ryde **2**

Average across comparison group of neighboring Councils* **6.7**

*Ku-ring-gai, Hornsby, Willoughby, Parramatta and Lane Cove







Top: Water quality monitoring - Ryde Council

Centre: Varroa mite on Bee
Credit: Australian Bee Council

Bottom: Noisy Miner bird

3 OUR STRATEGY



3.1 HOW THIS STRATEGY WAS DEVELOPED

The Biodiversity Strategy was developed through a collaborative process with Council and the community. Key steps in this process included:

CONSULTATION

Engagement with the local community (6 week online forum), environmental organisations (2 workshops), Council staff (2 workshops), and Council's Sustainability Community Committee to gather valuable input.

STRATEGIC REVIEW

A review of the outcomes and implementation of the 2016 Biodiversity Plan to build on past successes and lessons learned.

RESEARCH

A review of government policies and legislation to ensure alignment with best practice principles and high-level objectives. Review of datasets, ecological monitoring reports and other studies.

ANALYSIS

Examination of trends and emerging issues.

MEASURING SUCCESS

Council will implement a monitoring and evaluation framework that tracks progress and assesses the impact of actions in achieving the Biodiversity Strategy's objectives. This will include opportunities for citizen science monitoring.

At the conclusion of the ten-year planning period, the insights gained from these evaluations will inform the development of the next Strategy, to build on the successes, address any challenges, and refine the approach for continued improvement.

LOOKING AHEAD

Each year, the annual operations plan will guide Council's implementation of the Strategy, ensuring that biodiversity actions align with the Strategy's long-term vision. Council will continue to engage with the community to ensure actions are on track and responding to changing conditions and needs.

3.2 RELATIONSHIP TO COUNCIL STRATEGIES AND PLANS

This Biodiversity Strategy provides the framework to protect and enhance natural areas and biodiversity in the City of Ryde over the next ten years. It aims to achieve a more connected, resilient and healthier environment for the community to enjoy.

It builds on Council's 2016 Biodiversity Plan and aligns with other government strategies and legislation.

3. OUR NATURAL AND SUSTAINABLE CITY

The City of Ryde's open spaces and natural areas provide breathing space and room to move for a community increasingly living in high density. An emphasis on sustainable design, green building materials, the circular economy and nature based solutions helps manage the challenges of a changing climate, encourages energy and resource savings and waste solutions and provides opportunities to bring our multi-generational community on the transition journey.

Ryde Community Strategic Plan

Council's planning is guided by the Integrated Planning and Reporting framework, a mandatory framework for all NSW councils.

The City of Ryde's Community Strategic Plan (CSP) serves as the primary document within this framework, outlining the long-term vision for the City of Ryde as 'the place to be for lifestyle and opportunity at your doorstep'.

This Biodiversity Strategy directly contributes to achieving that vision by focusing on enhancing Ryde's natural and sustainable City (Outcome 3), in line with the CSP's goals.

The relationship between the CSP, this Biodiversity Strategy and other City of Ryde strategies, plans and policies is indicated in Figure 3.1.

In addition, the Biodiversity Strategy aligns with key priorities set by the Australian and NSW governments. These priorities include:

- Stronger integration of biodiversity and the mitigation hierarchy in planning decisions
- Halting and reversing trends in biodiversity decline
- Shift from 'no net loss' to 'nature positive' or 'net gain' biodiversity outcomes
- Preventing further extinctions and supporting threatened species recovery
- Addressing key threats such as invasive species and climate change
- Supporting Aboriginal cultural connection and stewardship of Country
- Improved data, monitoring and accountability

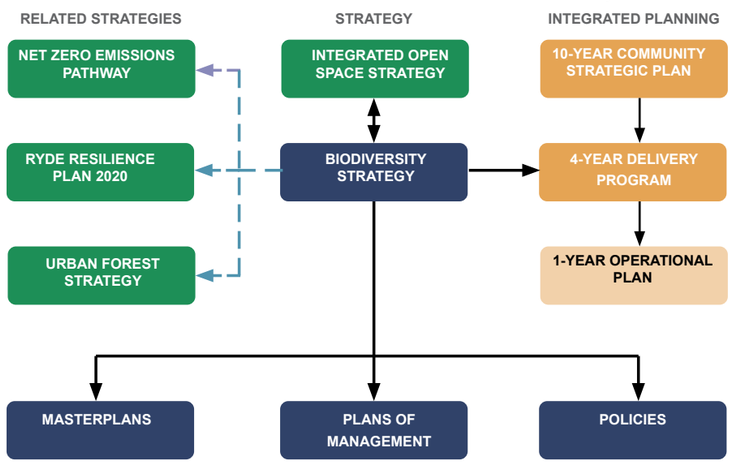


Figure 3.1 Relationship of Biodiversity Strategy 2026 to other strategies

Ryde Biodiversity Strategy 2026

ALIGNMENTS WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES OF OTHER KEY COUNCIL POLICIES



Ryde Integrated Open Space Strategy 2025-2035:

- Fostering Health And Wellness
- Ensuring Social Inclusion And Cohesion
- **Enhancing Biodiversity And Climate Resilience**
- Optimising Economic Benefits
- Optimising Innovation And Adaptability

The tree and natural area components of our open space network preserve biodiversity and cultural heritage and facilitate greater appreciation within the community of environmental values.

They also provide a range of ecosystem services benefits,

This Strategy seeks to ensure that our natural areas are sustained with best practice nature-based solutions, including urban forest strategies, green roof and wall developments, creek restorations and 'rewilding' and Biodiversity Sensitive Urban Design

Key corporate emission reduction and offsetting opportunities

- *Continuing to install solar systems on our buildings*
- *Further implementing energy efficiency projects*
- *Increasing planting opportunities*
- *Review and update policies and plans*
- *Electrification of fleet / assets*
- *Using low/zero-carbon products*
- *Ensuring sustainable funding •*
- *Offset where we cannot reduce emissions further.*

Net Zero Emissions Pathway

- Solar
- Energy efficiency
- **Increasing planting cover**
- **Update policies / strategies**
- Electrification of fleet / assets
- Using low/zero-carbon products
- **Ensuring sustainable funding**
- **Offset where we cannot reduce emissions further.**





Ryde Resilience Plan 2030:

- Energy Security
- Water Security
- Resource Efficiency
- **Climate Change, Extreme Weather Events / Natural Hazards**
- **Biodiversity And Natural Systems**
- **Transport And Connecting Our Community Health & Wellbeing**
- Emergency Preparedness and Recovery
- Governance With Direction, Collective
- Leadership And Collaboration

Biodiversity And Natural Systems

Our quality of life depends on maintaining biodiversity so that ecosystem services such as the availability of fresh water, food, and fuel sources remain.

The key is to make our use of biodiversity sustainable, so that the social, economic, environmental and health services provided by healthy ecosystems can continue to provide their benefits for current and future generations

Principle 1. Learn

Understand the existing resource, its benefits and how to prioritise

Principle 2. Grow

plan and manage to support growth and achieve realistic targets.

Principle 3. Protect

protection of the City's urban trees

Principle 4. Invest

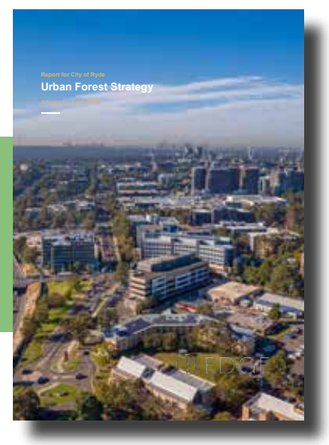
The City's urban forest is valued as an urban asset

Principle 5 Engage

Council staff and community value urban trees and work together

Urban Forestry Strategy

- **Learn**
- **Grow**
- **Protect**
- **Invest**
- **Engage**



3.3 KEY EXTERNAL LEGISLATION AND POLICIES

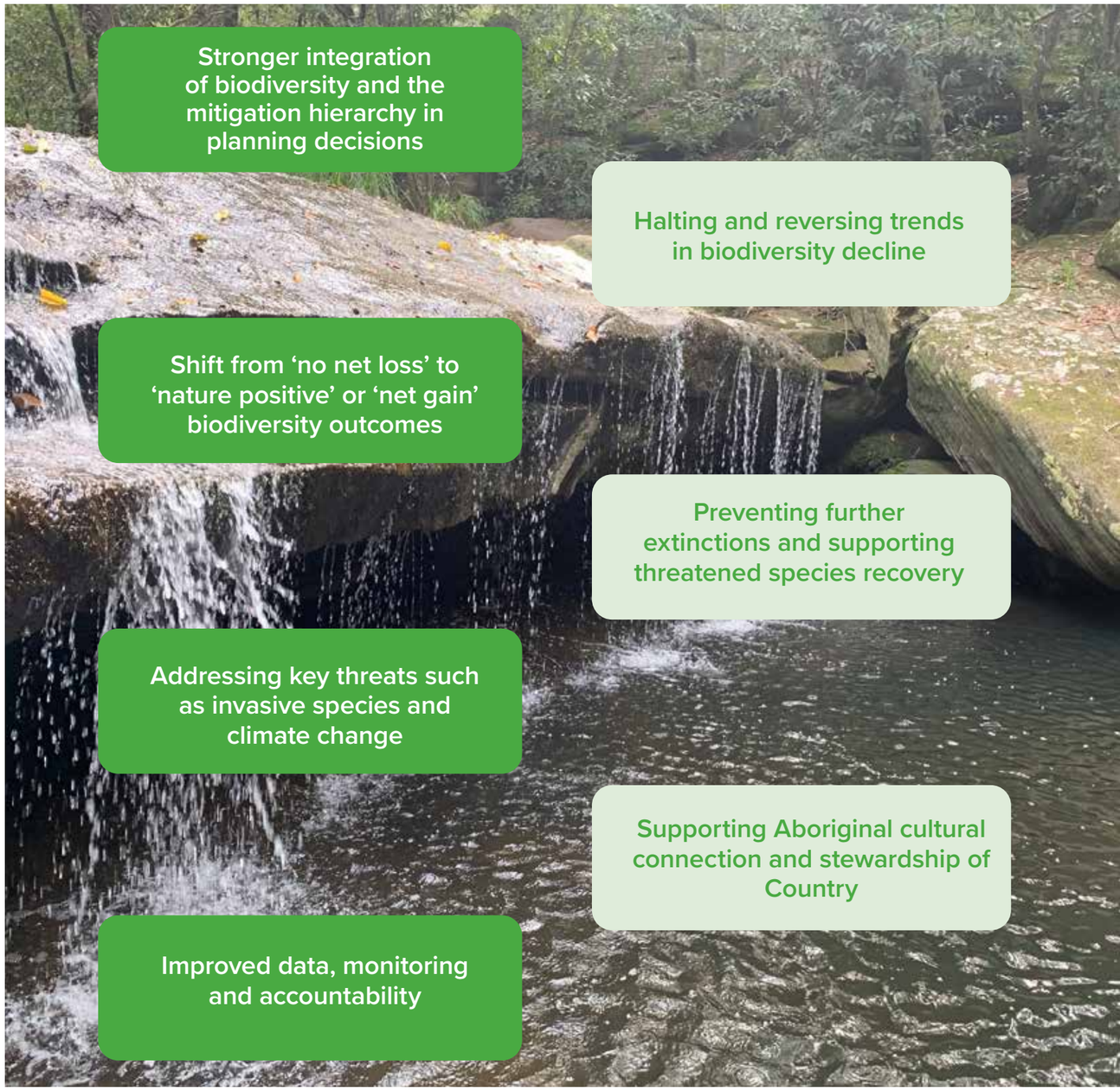
The City of Ryde's biodiversity planning and management takes place within strategic frameworks developed at different levels of government – from global to local.



Context	Legislation / policy
International framework	• Convention on Biological Diversity 1992 • Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework 2022 • 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development • UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030
Commonwealth framework	• Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 • Nature Repair Market Act 2023 • Australia's Strategy for Nature 2024–2030 • Australian Pest Animal Strategy 2017-2027 • Australian Weeds Strategy 2017-2027 • Threatened Species Action Plan 2022-2032
State and regional framework	• Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 • Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 • Crown Lands Act 1989 • Fisheries Management Act 1994 • Local Land Services Act 2013 • National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 • Protection of the Environmental Act 1997 • Rural Fires Act 1997 • Water Management Act 2000 • State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021 • NSW Plan for Nature • NSW Nature Strategy (in development, mandated) • Biodiversity Conservation Investment Strategy 2018 • Biodiversity in Place 2024 • Greener Places 2020 • Connecting with Country 2023 • Sydney Green Grid – North District 2017 • Greater Sydney Regional Strategic Pest Animal and Weed Management Plans
City of Ryde framework	• Community Strategic Plan – Ryde to 2035 • Local Environmental Plan 2014 • Development Control Plan 2014 • Integrated Open Space Plan 2025-2035 • Urban Forest Strategy 2023 • Resilience Plan 2030 • Net Zero Emissions Pathway 2022 • Plans of Management

3.4 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The Biodiversity Strategy reflects key priorities set by the Australian and NSW governments in relation to Biodiversity management. These priorities include:



3.5 HOW TO READ THIS STRATEGY

This section outlines the outcomes, objectives, and key action areas that will guide the City of Ryde's Biodiversity Strategy. To help you understand how these elements connect, we have provided an overview of how to read and interpret the content.

This Strategy uses an **outcomes-based approach,** focusing on the results we aim to achieve. We have identified specific objectives to guide our progress towards these outcomes.

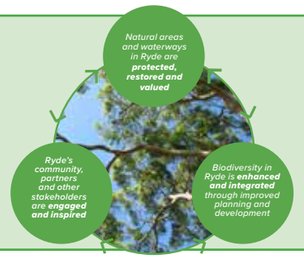
Performance indicators will also help us monitor and evaluate success and inform future adjustments to the Strategy.

The key components of this outcomes-based approach are:

VISION

This is the anchor of our Strategy, reflecting our long-term intent for making nature in Ryde healthy, connected, and resilient.

The outcomes and objectives following are all designed to bring this vision to fruition.



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Provide the framework for how we plan to achieve our vision, ensuring we remain focused on the most effective methods and approaches to meet the diversity of challenges present. They are informed by science, current environmental best practice, Ryde's broader strategic context and the valuable feedback from our community and stakeholders.

1.	**Ecological integrity and resilience**	• protect and enhance the integrity of ecosystems. • retaining key habitat features, ecological processes and connectivity that underpin long-term ecosystem resilience

OUTCOMES

Define our key goals and priorities and represent the long-term vision for biodiversity in Ryde.

Three desired future outcomes for biodiversity in Ryde form the second tier of the Vision, reflect the priorities and articulate the key themes of the Ryde Biodiversity Strategy 2026-2036.

Outcome 1: PROTECT AND RESTORE

Our natural areas and waterways in Ryde are protected, restored and valued

OBJECTIVES

Provide guidance and direction to the framing of actions across the range of different types of implementation activities.

We have set objectives for each outcome, which will be reviewed and updated when the Strategy is revised in 2036.

Objective 1 Protect areas of high biodiversity value	Areas of high biodiversity value are core habitat areas that need to be protected and managed. The NSW Government has mapped areas of high biodiversity value according to a standard, robust methodology. This mapping requires field validation as it may not include all areas of high biodiversity value in the LGA or it may include areas that do not satisfy the criteria for high biodiversity value.

KEY ACTIONS AREAS

These provide a roadmap for how to achieve the objectives. Action areas guide the development of an annual Social Action Plan as part of Council's operational planning process.

A process for implementing the Strategy is outlined, including a framework for monitoring and evaluating progress toward achieving the desired outcomes.

Integration with planning instruments and policies

Investigations and feasibility assessment

3.6 VISION

The vision describes the future that Council is aiming to create and gives direction and inspiration for decisions and actions. It distils the overall intended outcomes as a simple inspirational statement to highlight what success will look like

VISION STATEMENT

The vision for the 2026-2036 Biodiversity Strategy is:

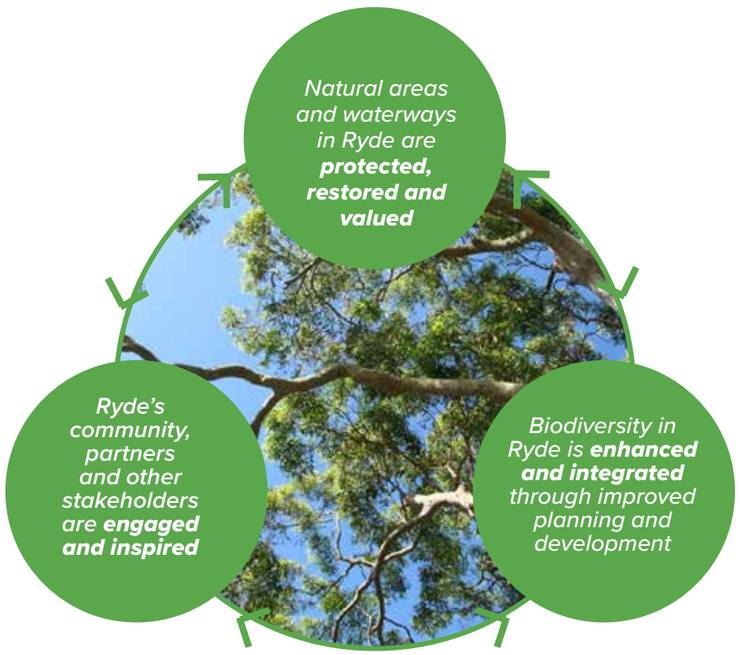
> *"Nature in the City of Ryde is healthy, connected and resilient"*

OUTCOMES

Three desired future outcomes for biodiversity in Ryde form the second tier of the Vision, reflect the priorities identified in section 3.4 and articulate the key themes of the Ryde Biodiversity Strategy 2026-2036.

The outcomes are intrinsically interdependent and inter-related and thus are illustrated as an ongoing circular cycle and exchange.

The outcomes provide the structure for objectives described in section 3.8.



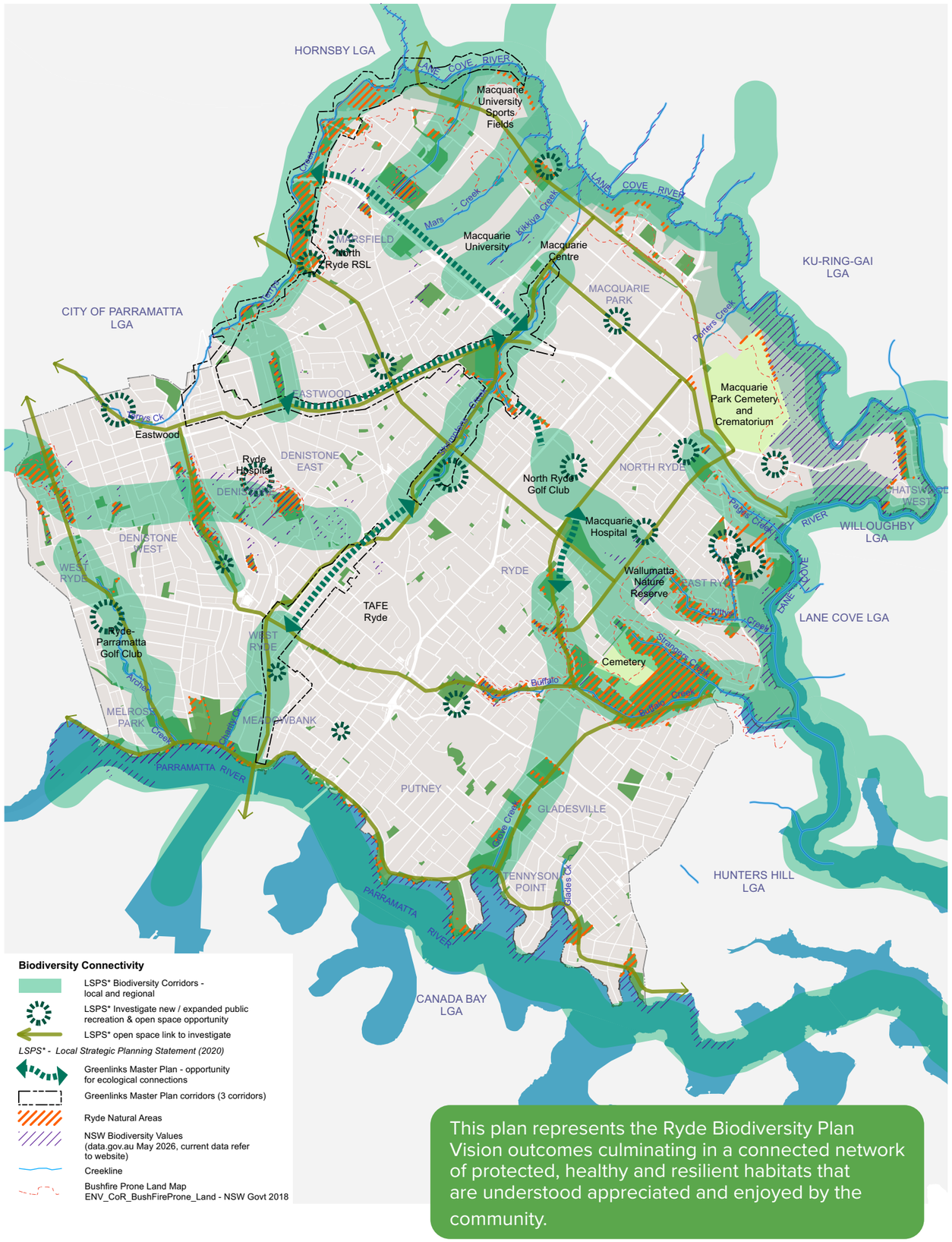


Figure 3.2 Bio-connectivity Vision for Ryde 2026-2036

Ryde Biodiversity Strategy 2026

3.7 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The guiding principles provide the foundation for how we plan to achieve our vision, ensuring we remain focused on the most effective methods and approaches to meet the diversity of challenges present.

The Guiding Principles are informed by science, current environmental best practice, Ryde's broader strategic context and the valuable feedback from our community and stakeholders.

These are summarised in the table on page 51 and are then detailed further on the following pages 52-61.

Case studies

Case study examples of the successful application of the guiding principles are provided to illustrate what success might look like for Ryde in the future.

Local case studies are provided to illustrate local achievements in biodiversity conservation and enhancement, along with **National or International** examples of inspirational ideas and initiatives.











Local and national / international case studies - refer to pages 60-69

Ryde Biodiversity Strategy 2026: Guiding Principles Summary

	1.	**Ecological integrity and resilience**	• protect and enhance the integrity of ecosystems. • retaining key habitat features, ecological processes and connectivity that underpin long-term ecosystem resilience.
	2.	**Multifunctional landscapes**	• retaining key habitat features, ecological processes and connectivity that underpin long-term ecosystem resilience. • green infrastructure and nature-based solutions are part of multifunctional landscapes.
	3.	**Partnerships & collaboration**	• work in partnership with Aboriginal communities, landholders, community groups, other agencies and industry to design and deliver biodiversity outcomes. • Collaboration, knowledge sharing and co-design is embedded in programs, encouraging shared stewardship.
	4.	**Adaptive management**	• apply an adaptive management approach, adjusting management in response to what is learned. • cycle of plan–do–review–improve will ensure biodiversity programs remain responsive to new information, changing conditions and community expectations.
	5.	**Leadership**	• show leadership by integrating biodiversity considerations into strategic planning, decision-making and operations. • clear roles, responsibilities, targets and transparent reporting will support accountability for delivering on objectives.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY AND RESILIENCE

Council will protect and enhance the health and integrity of ecosystems so they will be resilient to climate change and other pressures.

Management actions will focus on removing threats, and retaining and enhancing key habitat features, structure, ecological processes and connectivity.

On-ground biodiversity protection and restoration activities will apply best practice bush regeneration methods, monitoring and adaptive management



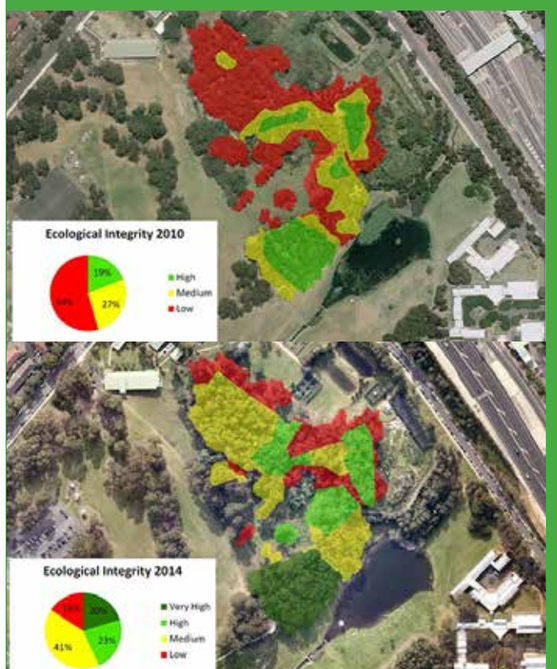
Field of Mars Reserve



Kittys Creek Corridor

LOCAL CASE STUDY:

Macquarie University remnant bushland restoration



Macquarie University has demonstrated how long-term management can improve ecological integrity and resilience in an urban setting. The campus contains valuable habitat, including remnant patches of the critically endangered Sydney Turpentine-Ironbark Forest. Since 2010, the University and volunteers have undertaken assisted natural regeneration, focusing on staged weed removal and ongoing maintenance.

This approach allowed native seed stored in the soil to germinate, supporting the recovery of grasses, herbs, shrubs and trees over time. Vegetation monitoring in 2010, 2014 and 2019 showed strong improvement, with areas of high or very high ecological integrity increasing from 19% to 58%. The project highlights the value of protecting remnant vegetation and restoring native structure to safeguard long-term ecosystem resilience.

The project highlights the value of protecting remnant vegetation and restoring native structure to safeguard long-term ecosystem resilience.

NATIONAL CASE STUDY

Native tree planting tools – Sutherland Shire Council

The project responds to canopy loss from urban development, ageing trees and reduced planting opportunities on private land

Sutherland Shire Council developed a location-based online mapping tool to guide native tree and plant selection across development assessment, bush regeneration, street tree planting and reserve management. The tool uses mapping of 46 local vegetation communities to recommend species suited to specific locations, helping ensure new planting reflects and strengthens existing ecological character.

By prioritising indigenous species and aligning planting decisions across Council functions, Sutherland Shire is helping restore local canopy and strengthen ecological connectivity between remnant bushland and urban areas. The program has supported nearly 14,000 native trees planted in road reserves and public spaces. It demonstrates how targeted species selection, local provenance planting and coordinated management can enhance ecosystem integrity and resilience over time.





MULTIFUNCTIONAL LANDSCAPES

Council will plan and manage landscapes to deliver multiple benefits at once, including biodiversity conservation, climate adaptation and mitigation, productive land uses and community health and well-being.

Land use decisions will favour connected mosaics of habitat, green and blue infrastructure, and compatible land uses that support both nature and people.

Green infrastructure and nature-based solutions are part of multifunctional landscapes.



Bee Friendly roof gardens support pollination

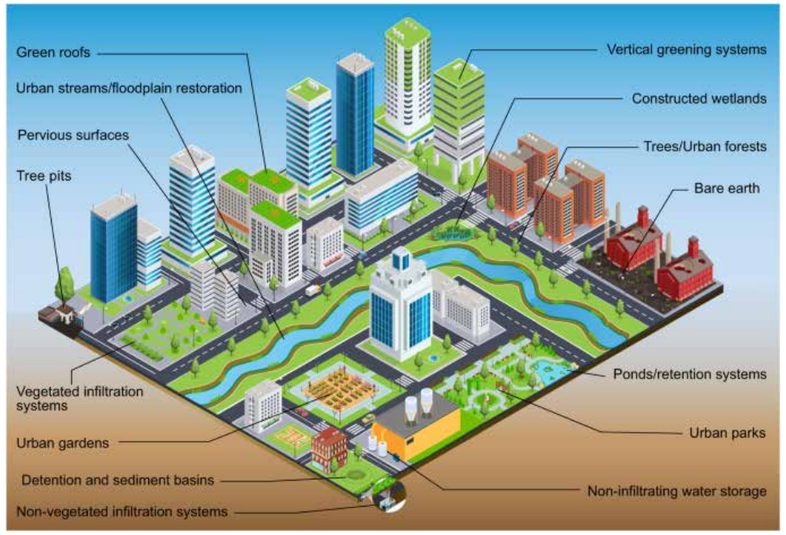


Figure 3.3 Components of a multifunctional landscape *Source: npj Urban Sustainability ISSN 2661-8001 (online)*



Figure 3.4 Components of the urban forest *Source: Owuor et al. 2022. Unlocking the Potential of Urban Forests*

LOCAL CASE STUDY: Shrimptons Creek Corridor Ryde

The creek corridor addresses multiple functions for hydrology habitat and recreational trails.

The Shrimptons Creek corridor demonstrates how urban creek corridors can exist as multifunctional landscapes, supporting biodiversity, recreation, active transport and urban connectivity. The corridor includes a series of parks along Shrimptons Creek, forming an almost continuous open space link from the centre of the LGA up to its northern boundary.

Identified as a key green link in Council's Green Links Masterplan, Shrimptons Creek has strategic importance in connecting Macquarie Park, West Ryde and broader links between the Lane Cove and Parramatta Rivers. The corridor supports walking and cycling access while also acting as an ecological buffer between the creek and surrounding urban areas.

By improving connections between parks, waterways, active transport routes and ecological networks, green infrastructure can deliver multifunctional outcomes within a growing urban landscape

INTERNATIONAL CASE STUDY New Zealand Biodiversity Factor

Using urban design principles sensitive to biodiversity, the NZBF will score developments on a variety of features:

The Aotearoa BiodiverCity research group identified that New Zealand has few precedents for incorporating green elements in denser developments. Solutions such as vegetated roofs and water-sensitive urban design are seen as experimental and risky rather than mainstream.

Strengthening council district plans to include requirements for preserving and enhancing urban green spaces should be a priority. This would include clear and attainable biodiversity targets, with quantifiable outcomes.

Using urban design principles sensitive to biodiversity, the New Zealand Biodiversity Factor (NZBF) will score developments on a variety of features: extent of permeable area, vegetation quality in public and private spaces, and street layout.



Shrimptons Creek corridor

PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

Council will work in partnership with Aboriginal communities, landholders, community groups, tertiary institutions, other agencies and industry to design and deliver biodiversity outcomes.

Collaboration, knowledge sharing and co-design will be embedded in programs, recognising that effective biodiversity conservation relies on shared stewardship.

Examples of community involvement include Bushcare and citizen science.



First Nations Community events in Ryde (Sunset Sounds 2019)



Community planting day at Jim Walsh Park

LOCAL CASE STUDY:

The Habitat Community Nursery Ryde



The Habitat community nursery demonstrates how partnerships and community stewardship can support local biodiversity outcomes. Established at Santa Rosa Park in 2012, the volunteer-run nursery grows local provenance native plants, with a focus on species that provide habitat for small birds and other wildlife.

The Habitat supports residents to incorporate native habitat plants into their gardens and provides plants to local Bushcare sites, schools and community gardens. Through plant sales, advice, education and hands-on volunteering, the nursery helps share knowledge about sustainable gardening, habitat creation and the importance of local native vegetation.

The project reflects a strong collaborative model involving Council, volunteers, schools, community groups and local residents. The Habitat helps strengthen shared responsibility for biodiversity conservation across both public and private land.

The Habitat helps strengthen shared responsibility for biodiversity conservation.

NATIONAL CASE STUDY

Land for Wildlife Program – Brisbane City Council

strong partnerships with private landholders can deliver biodiversity outcomes across the broader landscape

Brisbane City Council's Land for Wildlife program demonstrates how strong partnerships with private landholders can deliver biodiversity outcomes across the broader landscape. With more than half of Brisbane's local flora and fauna occurring on privately owned land, the program supports landowners to conserve, restore and manage wildlife habitat on their properties.

Participation is voluntary and provides landholders with expert advice, property-specific bushland management plans, workshops, native plants, nest boxes, monitoring cameras, grants and other resources.

The program is part of a wider regional conservation network and has engaged more than 840 private landowners, collectively caring for over 2,700 hectares of habitat





ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

Council will apply an adaptive management approach, using best available evidence to plan actions, monitoring their outcomes and adjusting management in response to what is learned.

This cycle of plan–do–review–improve will ensure biodiversity programs remain responsive to new information, changing conditions and community expectations.

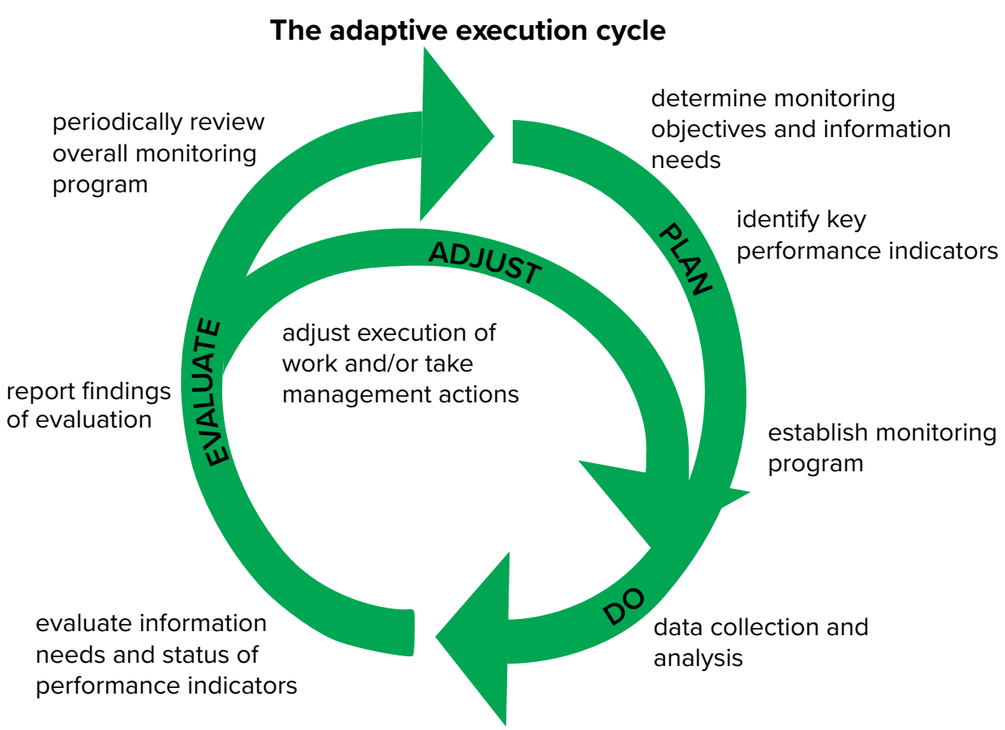
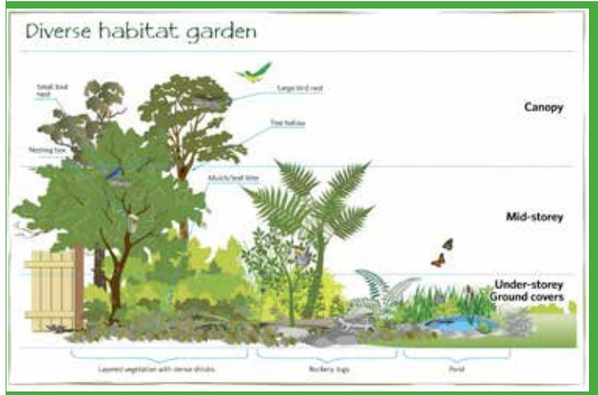


Figure 3.5 The Adaptive Execution Cycle *Source: https://www.ecoshape.org/en/knowledge-articles/adaptive-man*

LOCAL CASE STUDY:

River to River corridors project





The River to River Wildlife Corridors Project demonstrated adaptive management of public and private natural assets in response to noticeable changes in the landscape. Delivered over three years by the City of Ryde and Hunters Hill Council, the project responded to scientific evidence showing that urban development had fragmented important wildlife corridors between the Lane Cove and Parramatta Rivers.

Council used ecological surveys, community surveys and targeted engagement to guide corridor restoration across more than nine kilometres of identified habitat. Works were delivered across 25 planting sites, with over 900 community members, schools and volunteer groups helping plant more than 16,000 native plants to support small birds and other fauna.

The project also empowered residents to create habitat in their own gardens through workshops and the Habitat Friendly Gardens Guide.

demonstrates adaptive management of public and private natural assets in response to noticeable changes in the landscape.

NATIONAL CASE STUDY

Creeks & Critters Program – Hornsby Shire council

using environmental DNA (eDNA) technology to build a stronger evidence base for waterway and biodiversity management

Hornsby Shire Council's Creeks and Critters program demonstrates adaptive management by using environmental DNA (eDNA) technology to build a stronger evidence base for waterway and biodiversity management.

Community volunteers collected water samples from 41 creek sites across Hornsby Shire between 2023 and 2024, helping identify the hundreds of species present in local waterways. The project generated a baseline biodiversity assessment, recording threatened species, introduced species and new local species detections.

Results were shared through an interactive data dashboard, improving transparency and community access to scientific information.

The findings can help Council track ecological change, identify management priorities and respond to new information about waterway health and native species over time.





LEADERSHIP

Council will show leadership by integrating biodiversity considerations into strategic planning, decision-making and operations, and by demonstrating good practice and innovation in managing its own land and assets.

Clear roles, responsibilities, targets and transparent reporting will support accountability for delivering on the objectives of this Biodiversity Strategy.



Bushcare Volunteers

LOCAL CASE STUDY:

Community planting and clean up days



Initiatives such as the Ryde Mayor's Tree Planting Day, National Tree Day and Clean Up Australia Day provide regular opportunities for residents, Councillors, volunteers and community groups to improve local parks, corridors and open spaces.

Through planting native tubestock, these events help increase canopy cover, strengthen habitat corridors, improve visual amenity and support native species.

Clean up events also reduce litter and pollution risks that can affect waterways, bushland and native wildlife.

By regularly coordinating visible and community-focused activities, Council can demonstrate leadership in biodiversity action while encouraging shared responsibility for protecting and enhancing Ryde's natural environment.

demonstrating leadership in biodiversity action while encouraging shared responsibility

NATIONAL CASE STUDY

Tree giveaway & backyard habitat resources – City of Sydney

City of Sydney demonstrates leadership by helping residents take practical action to support urban biodiversity

City of Sydney demonstrates leadership by helping residents take practical action to support urban biodiversity. Through its free native plant giveaway, Council partnered with a local nursery to provide households with locally native plants suited to a range of spaces, including balconies, courtyards and gardens.

The initiative is supported by Council's Creating Habitat for Urban Wildlife guide, which provides clear advice on how to create habitat gardens that provide food, shelter and nesting opportunities for native birds, bees, butterflies, lizards, frogs and other urban wildlife.

By combining plant giveaways with practical education, the program shows how Council leadership can extend beyond public land by empowering the community to contribute to habitat creation, urban greening and ecological connectivity across the city.





3.8 OUTCOMES

Outcome 1: PROTECT AND RESTORE



Our natural areas and waterways in Ryde are protected, restored and valued

The foundation for management of the natural environment in Ryde is to protect and restore the existing natural assets of the city. This outcome focuses on ensuring that Natural areas in the Ryde LGA will be protected and restored through proactive planning, evidence-based management, and ongoing stewardship.

Restoration initiatives will focus on improving ecosystem function, enhancing habitat connectivity, and supporting threatened species and ecological communities, while managing key threats such as invasive species, habitat fragmentation, and climate change impacts.

KEY INSIGHTS FROM RESEARCH AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

City of Ryde has approximately **420 ha of natural areas** within the LGA.

This comprises:

275 ha of State owned natural area reserves

145 ha (35%) of natural areas within Council-owned or managed open space

10% of the overall Ryde LGA area is natural area

86% of Council-owned or managed natural area is within regional or district parks

64% of community respondents ranked protecting and restoring bushland as high priority

46% of community respondents observed biodiversity values in Ryde as declining

35% observe a balanced situation

10% observe an improving situation

EXAMPLE ACHIEVEMENTS

- Council's declaration of Wildlife Protection Areas at Field of Mars Reserve, Kittys Creek corridor and Terrys Creek corridor
- Delineation of Saltmarsh areas across multiple sites (Settlers and Kissing Point)
- Preparation of Saltmarsh Management Plan
- Delineation of important habitat areas across multiple sites (Kissing Point Park, Koonadan Reserve, Lucknow Park, Lynn Park, Marsfield Park, McCauley Park, Pellisier Rd, Plassey Rd, Settlers Park, Stewart Park, and Waterloo Park)
- Water quality monitoring biannually at Archers, Buffalo, Shrimptons, Terrys, and Porters Creeks
- Streamwatch monitoring monthly at 11 Bushcare sites
- Feral animal management at various sites
- Preparation of asset management plans
- Flora and fauna surveys
- "Get the site right" erosion and sediment control spot check program.

	NEED	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
Objective 1 Protect areas of high biodiversity value	Areas of high biodiversity value are core habitat areas that need to be protected and managed. The NSW Government has mapped areas of high biodiversity value according to a standard, robust methodology. This mapping requires field validation as it may not include all areas of high biodiversity value in the LGA or it may include areas that do not satisfy the criteria for high biodiversity value.	• The identification and mapping of high, medium and lower biodiversity value areas across the Ryde LGA is improved. • Areas of high biodiversity value warranting additional statutory protection are identified and considered through Council's statutory planning processes. • The protection of high biodiversity value areas through Council's development assessment, infrastructure planning, asset management and operational decision-making is enhanced. • The condition and resilience of high biodiversity value areas on Council managed land is improved. • Stewardship and active management of high biodiversity value areas on private land is increased.
Objective 2 Expand and connect natural areas	Ecological connectivity and habitat patch size need to be enhanced to reduce the adverse effects of habitat fragmentation and a high edge-to-area ratio.	• The identification, mapping and prioritisation of opportunities to expand and connect natural areas is improved. • The extent of native vegetation within identified priority natural areas increases over time. • Priority ecological corridors and habitat linkages are increasingly recognised and considered in Council's strategic planning, development assessment, infrastructure planning and land management. • High-priority corridors and habitat linkages warranting statutory protection are considered in accordance with Objective 1. • Connectivity between natural areas is improved and habitat fragmentation is reduced.
Objective 3 Support recovery of threatened flora and fauna species	Threatened species need to be sustained locally by protecting and supplementing key habitat, and reducing threats (e.g. weeds). Resources may be available through the NSW Government's Saving our Species program.	• Knowledge and understanding of threatened flora populations and threatened fauna habitats, including their condition, threats and recovery potential is improved. • Habitats and habitat features supporting threatened species are increasingly recognised and considered in Council's strategic planning, development assessment, infrastructure planning and land management. • Management actions identified in locally relevant threatened species conservation strategies adopted under the Saving Our Species program are increasingly integrated with and supported by Council's natural areas management and operational practices. • The condition and resilience of priority habitats supporting threatened species is improved through targeted restoration and threat management.
Objective 4 Improve the condition of threatened ecological communities	The condition of TECs need to be improved to strengthen their resilience to future pressures and shocks.	• Knowledge and understanding of TECs, including their condition, threats and recovery potential is improved. • Management actions identified in locally relevant TEC conservation strategies adopted under the Saving Our Species program are increasingly integrated with and supported by Council's natural areas management and operational practices. • Areas containing TECs that are identified through site assessment as warranting additional statutory protection are considered in accordance with Objective 1. • The condition and resilience of TECs is improved through targeted restoration and threat management.
Objective 5 Enhance riparian and aquatic ecosystems	Healthy riparian and aquatic habitats need good catchment management, including reducing threats such as pollution and weeds, and increasing native vegetation cover.	• Water quality in streams and waterways is improved • The stability of stream beds and banks is improved • Riparian and aquatic biodiversity is improved

Outcome 2: ENHANCE AND INTEGRATE



Biodiversity in Ryde is enhanced and integrated through improved planning and development

There is tension between the demand for housing and the community's need to connect with nature for their health and well-being.

Opportunities to enhance biodiversity and natural elements in the landscape and urban areas need to be explored and supported.

KEY INSIGHTS FROM RESEARCH AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The population of the City of Ryde is projected to grow from 129,813 in 2021 to **199,473 by 2046**, representing an increase of roughly **69,660** people **(+35%)** (Remplan)

Macquarie Uni Station is expected to see the largest increase, accounting for nearly **36%** of total LGA growth

1st Order Streams (Small headwater streams) should be provided with **10-meter Core Riparian Zone (CRZ)** width setback / buffer from the top of the bank (DCCEEW)

2nd Order Streams (Small headwater streams) should be provided with **20-meter Core Riparian Zone (CRZ)** width setback / buffer from the top of the bank (DCCEEW)

39% of community respondents ranked increasing ecological corridors as high priority

EXAMPLE ACHIEVEMENTS

- Morrison Bay seawall and Saltmarsh works
- Saltmarsh enhancement works at Parramatta River foreshore and at Field of Mars Reserve
- Community Tree give-aways
- Community Bushcare training and seminars
- Corridor planting programs
- National Tree Days
- Council Bushcare program
- Community Bushcare activities
- Bushland signage - Blue Gum High Forest Reserves, Bundara Reserve, Kittys Creek Reserves, Upper Buffalo Creek Reserves, Field of Mars Reserve, Stewart Park
- Walking Trail Audit
- Walking Trail Upgrades
- Field of Mars Nature trails grant
- Water-quality improvement works, including weed management and bank stabilisation at various sites.



	NEED	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
Objective 6 Incorporate nature-based solutions, green infrastructure and biodiversity-sensitive design in Council's projects	All elements of the landscape need to be considered as opportunities to enhance connectivity and habitat	• The integration of nature-based solutions, green infrastructure and biodiversity-sensitive design into Council projects is increased. • The contribution of Council infrastructure, parks, streetscapes and public spaces to habitat provision is enhanced. • Ecological connectivity between natural areas is improved through Council projects and initiatives.
Objective 7 Strengthen planning and development assessment processes to deliver positive biodiversity outcomes	Land use planning, development assessment and compliance processes need to better recognise, protect and enhance biodiversity values to ensure urban growth contributes to resilient and connected ecological systems	• Biodiversity values are more effectively integrated into strategic land-use planning and development assessment. • Biodiversity and urban greening outcomes delivered through new development are enhanced. • Investment in biodiversity and green infrastructure outcomes is increased. • The delivery and long-term performance of biodiversity outcomes required through development approvals is improved.
Objective 8 Integrate the environmental impact mitigation hierarchy into Council's land use planning, development controls and operational activities	Planning processes and Council's activities need to be updated to align with current laws and recent court decisions.	• Alignment of Council's land use planning framework, development controls and operational practices with current biodiversity legislation and best practice is improved. • The consideration of biodiversity impacts early in the planning, design and assessment of development applications and Council projects is improved. • Residual impacts on biodiversity from development and Council activities are reduced.
Objective 9 Investigate best practice for local biodiversity offsets	There is no biodiversity offsets policy for matters outside the NSW and Commonwealth schemes. The NSW BOS does not require offset obligations incurred in the City of Ryde to be acquitted locally, so advocacy is needed	• Understanding of local biodiversity offset mechanisms and their applicability within the Ryde LGA is improved. • Understanding of opportunities to direct biodiversity offset investment towards local biodiversity priorities is improved. • If determined to be appropriate, the use of local biodiversity offset mechanisms is increased. • If determined to be appropriate, local biodiversity offsets deliver net positive biodiversity outcomes. • Advocacy to the NSW Government results in improved local delivery of biodiversity offset outcomes within the Ryde LGA.

Outcome 3: ENGAGE AND INSPIRE



Our community, partners and other stakeholders are engaged and inspired

Collaboration with landholders, community groups, and government agencies will be strengthened to deliver coordinated and measurable biodiversity outcomes across the local government area.

KEY INSIGHTS FROM RESEARCH AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

There are **17 Community Bushcare Sites**, currently enabling community participation in Ryde

Comparison of current population per bushcare site / group:

Blue Mountains	1 group per 1065 pop'n
Lane Cove	1 group per 1800 pop'n
North Sydney	1 group per 5670 pop'n
Ryde	**1 group per 6456 pop'n**

78% natural areas - highest community priority for improvements to open space (Ryde Integrated Open Space Strategy 2025-2026)

55% natural areas community priority for open space planning focus (Integrated Open Space Strategy 2025-2035)

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

- Compliance monitoring review of Wildlife Protection Areas, joint project with Macquarie University
- Bush Friendly neighbour program
- Biodiversity Education Strategy
- Love your Waterways Program
- Companion Animals flier
- Habitat Friendly brochures
- Get the site right inspections
- Weed Watch Ryde Campaign
- Habitat Havens for Native Birds webinar
- River aware campaign
- Working with Local Land Services with priority weeds
- Wildlife Friendly netting campaign
- ‘See it, Report it, stop it’ education campaigns.



	NEED	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
Objective 10 Facilitate community and stakeholder involvement in on-ground regeneration and restoration	Council has limited resources and community volunteers can significantly increase biodiversity restoration activities	• Community and stakeholder involvement contributes to the ongoing restoration and enhancement of native vegetation and habitat. • The number of active volunteers contributing to biodiversity restoration and conservation activities increases over time. • The capacity of volunteers and community groups to undertake effective biodiversity restoration activities is improved.
Objective 11 Encourage biodiversity enhancement activities in gardens and streetscapes	Increased ecological connectivity will only be possible if all elements in the landscape contribute	• The number of residents directly participating in biodiversity enhancement activities on private land and streetscapes increases over time. • The contribution of gardens, verges and streetscapes to habitat provision and ecological connectivity is enhanced.
Objective 12 Foster participation in environmental monitoring	Environmental management needs to adapt to changing conditions. There are an increasing number of quality apps available for citizen science monitoring and the data can inform environmental management	• The number of community members participating in environmental monitoring and citizen science programs increases over time. • The quantity and spatial coverage of environmental monitoring data collected through community participation increases over time. • The use of environmental monitoring data collected by the community that helps inform planning and environmental management decisions is increased.
Objective 13 Raise awareness of biodiversity values and management through education	Achieving the vision of the Biodiversity Strategy will need wide-ranging support from the community	• Community awareness and understanding of local biodiversity values and management increases over time. • Community members are increasingly empowered to take actions that protect and enhance biodiversity on public and private land.

3.9 KEY ACTION AREAS

Key action areas represent the categories / types of detailed tasks and activities required to address the biodiversity objectives, and that will be integrated by Council into its four-year Delivery Program and annual Operational Plans.

Defining the key action areas provides a clear roadmap for achieving the objectives of the Biodiversity Strategy.

These focus areas will guide Council's approach and inform the development of specific actions over the next ten years.



Bushcare volunteers Waterloo Park Marsfield

KEY ACTION AREAS

Our key Action Areas Include:

- **Integration with planning instruments and policies**
- **Investigations and feasibility assessment**
- **Field validation and detailed assessment**
- **Securing Funding**
- **Communications and information sharing**
- **Revegetation and bush regeneration**
- **Bushcare program**
- **Public education**
- **Advocacy**

3.10 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The City of Ryde will implement a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to assess the progress of Biodiversity Strategy objectives and actions and measure the extent to which the intended outcomes have been achieved

TIMEFRAME

We will evaluate the Strategy at three key stages following its adoption by Council:

Short-term (year 1) – to establish baseline data, monitor early action implementation and gather initial feedback.

Medium-term (year 5) – to review progress towards objectives and adjust actions as required.

Long-term (year 10) – to conduct a full review of the Strategy to assess our success in achieving outcomes and identify areas for improvement in the next update.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Roles and responsibilities for monitoring and evaluating include:

- Council will lead the evaluation process, including developing evaluation methods, reporting on progress, and adjusting as needed.
- Community members and other stakeholders will provide valuable feedback to inform the evaluation findings.
- Partners who collaborate with Council in delivering actions will share insights and contribute to monitoring outcomes.

The evaluation framework will be supported by strong partnerships with environmental/ bush regeneration groups and other community stakeholders that use or have an interest in Council's natural areas and biodiversity.

Ongoing collaboration will take place through advisory groups, stakeholder workshops, and data-sharing initiatives.

REPORTING

The evaluation and reporting process will include:

- Baseline evaluation report
- Quarterly and annual reports – regular reporting as part of the IP&R framework to monitor progress and measure the success of adopted actions
- 5-year and 10-year reviews – to inform the development of the next iteration of the Biodiversity Strategy

4 REFERENCES

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5 ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT 1
BIODIVERSITY DEFINITIONS

WHAT ARE ECOSYSTEM SERVICES ?

Ecosystem services are the direct and indirect benefits that people obtain from nature and from the functioning of ecosystems. There are four categories of ecosystem services:

- Provisioning services: material outputs like food, freshwater, timber, fibre, fuel, and some medicinal resources.
- Regulating services: benefits from regulation of ecosystem processes, including climate regulation, carbon storage, water purification, flood and erosion control, disease regulation and pollination.
- Cultural services: non-material benefits such as recreation, tourism, aesthetic enjoyment, spiritual and cultural values, and opportunities for education and scientific knowledge.
- Supporting services: underlying processes that maintain ecosystems themselves, like photosynthesis, soil formation, nutrient cycling, and habitat provision for biodiversity.



Figure 5.1 Ecosystem Services
Source: CEEweb for Biodiversity | News: Ecosystem Services 101

WHAT IS RESILIENCE ?

Resilience refers to the ability of an ecosystem to absorb shocks (e.g. bushfires, floods, land clearing, climate extremes, pollution) while maintaining its identity, functions and ecosystem services.

An example of high resilience would be a healthy bushland reserve that is subject to fire but recovers well, maintaining its biodiversity and habitat features.

Areas of low resilience typically have multiple stresses, which makes them more vulnerable to a shock that will fundamentally and permanently change the ecosystem (e.g. open woodland becomes grassland).

It is important that measures are taken to strengthen ecosystem resilience, especially in the context of a changing climate.

WHAT IS NATURE POSITIVE ?

Internationally, nature positive means a measurable increase in the health, abundance, diversity and resilience of ecosystems from a 2020 baseline, with nature clearly on a path to recovery by 2030 and “full recovery” by 2050. This is tied to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which Australia has endorsed, including its outcome goals and 23 targets.

Australia’s 2022 Nature Positive Plan states that ‘nature positive is a term used to describe circumstances where nature – species and ecosystems – is being repaired and is regenerating rather than being in decline.’

It means our combined impacts add up to a net gain for biodiversity and ecosystem health, not a net loss.

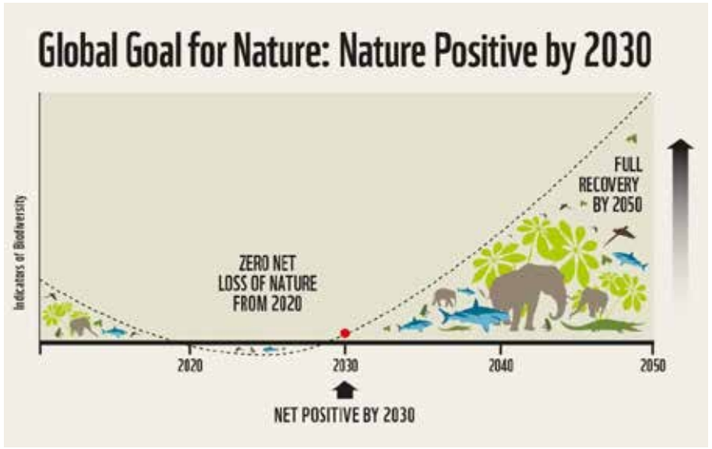


Figure 5.2 Nature positive by 2030
Source: Nature Positive - A Global Goal for Nature

WHAT IS THE MITIGATION HIERARCHY ?

The mitigation hierarchy is a best-practice decision-making framework used to limit the negative environmental and social impacts of development and land-clearing projects. It requires planning and design to follow four sequential steps to achieve “no net loss” or a net gain of biodiversity:

AVOID: Prevent impacts entirely by choosing alternative sites or redesigning project footprints.

MINIMISE: Reduce the duration, intensity, or extent of impacts that cannot be avoided.

REHABILITATE/RESTORE: Repair ecosystems to their original state within the project footprint.

OFFSET: Compensate for any residual, unavoidable impacts by creating or protecting equivalent biodiversity elsewhere. Understanding and strictly following this order ensures that destructive impacts are prevented in the first place, rather than relying on after-the-fact offsets as a quick fix.



Figure 5.3 Mitigation Hierarchy
Source: www.norden.org/publications I pub@norden.org

ATTACHMENT 2

BIODIVERSITY IN THE CITY OF RYDE - SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

NOTE

The following pages provide an expanded version of section 2.0 of this Biodiversity Strategy with supplementary text, listings and mapping as applicable

BIOREGION AND LANDSCAPE

What is a Bioregion ?

The Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) is a national framework that classifies the whole continent into bioregions and subregions based on dominant landscape-scale environmental attributes.

These attributes include climate, lithology/geology, landform, vegetation, flora and fauna, and (to a lesser extent) land use, combined to capture areas of country where biodiversity patterns are relatively similar.

Mitchell Landscape

NSW (Mitchell) Landscapes provide a classification finer than IBRA bioregions. A Mitchell landscape is a mapped landscape unit used in NSW that groups areas with similar geology, landform, soils, climate and native vegetation into consistent “landscape” types for ecological planning and assessment.

The City of Ryde is within the Sydney Basin Bioregion (NPWS 2003). Mitchell (2002) described two landscapes within the City of Ryde:

- Pennant Hills Ridges within the Hornsby Landscape of the Sydney Basin Bioregion – ‘Rolling to moderately steep hills on horizontal Triassic shales and siltstones. General elevation 10 to 90m, local relief 60m. Deep red texture-contrast soils on narrow hillcrests, red and brown to yellow texture-contrast soils on slopes becoming slightly harsher in drainage lines. Tall open forest of Sydney blue gum (Eucalyptus saligna), turpentine (Syncarpia glomulifera), blackbutt (Eucalyptus pilularis), white stringybark (Eucalyptus globoidea), grey ironbark (Eucalyptus paniculata), forest oak (Allocasuarina torulosa) and rough-barked apple (Angophora floribunda). Rainforest elements in protected moist gully heads with sweet pittosporum (Pittosporum undulatum), cheese tree (Glochidion ferdinandi), sandpaper fig (Ficus coronata) and black wattle (Callicoma serratifolia).’
- Port Jackson Basin within the Pittwater Landscape of the Sydney Basin Bioregion – ‘Deep elongated harbour with steep cliffed margins on horizontal Triassic quartz sandstone. Small pocket beaches and more extensive Quaternary estuary fill of muddy sand at the head of most tributary streams. General elevation 0 to 80m, local relief 10 to 50m. Sandstone slopes and cliffs have patches of uniform or gradational sandy soil on narrow benches and within joint crevices that support forest and woodland of Sydney peppermint (Eucalyptus piperita), smooth-barked apple (Angophora costata), red bloodwood (Corymbia gummifera) and blackbutt (Eucalyptus pilularis). Sheltered gullies contain some turpentine (Syncarpia glomulifera), coachwood (Ceratopetalum apetalum) and water gum (Tristaniopsis laurina). Estuarine sands were originally dominated by saltmarsh but have been taken over by grey mangrove (Avicennia marina) in the past century.’

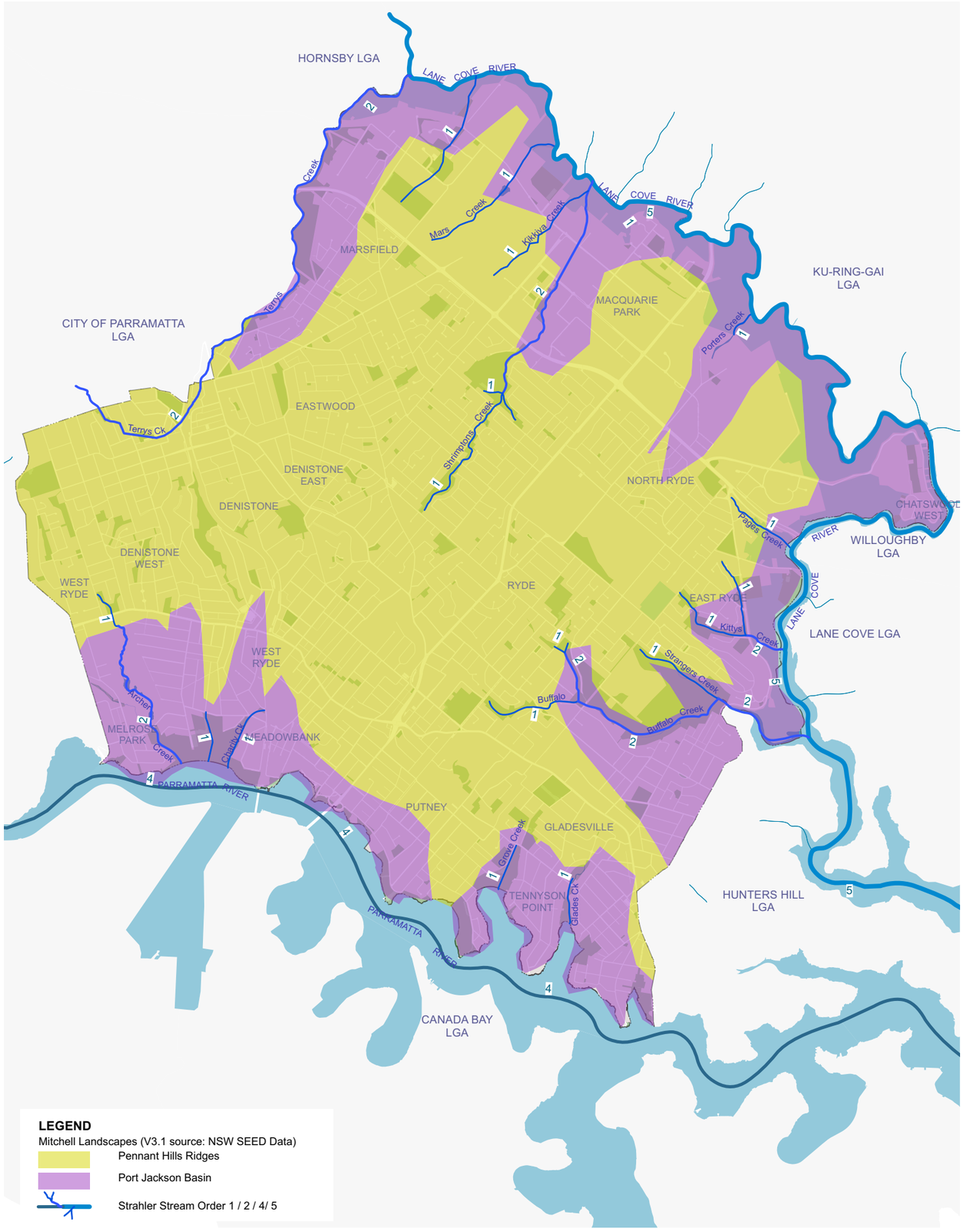


Figure 5.4 Major Creek catchments within Ryde

Ryde Biodiversity Strategy 2026

VEGETATION

The State Vegetation Type Map (SVTM) shows the distribution of each plant community type (PCT), vegetation class and vegetation formation across all tenures in NSW.

- Vegetation Formations are broad groups distinguished by major structural and physiognomic features.
- Vegetation Classes are groups of related plant communities that share floristic similarities and are generally united by similar structure and habitat.
- PCTs identify and describe recurring patterns of native plant species assemblages in relation to environmental conditions (soil, temperature, moisture and other factors). Each PCT has standard attributes that describe the floristic composition, structure, habitat and distribution across NSW.

There are two separate SVTM products: the pre-clearing map and the extant map.

Detailed field survey has been conducted in some areas of Ryde to inform the extant map, but additional, recent survey would be required to validate the mapping.

Some of the PCT classifications have been revised since the 2016 Biodiversity Plan and previous ecological surveys. Changes to the PCT master list are managed by the NSW Government and generally occur in an annual update or when a major revision has been completed.

PRE CLEARING PCT'S

The SVTM pre-clearing map displays the likely distribution of PCTs before the loss of native vegetation cover. As mapped in **Figure 3.3**, prior to European settlement the waterways of the Ryde area would have been fringed by Sydney Coastal Sandstone Foreshores Forest with pockets of Sydney Coastal Enriched Sandstone Forest, Sydney Enriched Sandstone Moist Forest, Sydney Creekflat Swamp Mahogany – Paperbark Forest and Grey Mangrove – River Mangrove Forest. Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest and Blue Gum High Forest would have dominated the higher elevations.

EXTANT PCT'S

The SVTM extant map **Figure 3.4** shows the distribution of the PCTs within the limits of present-day native vegetation cover. There are currently 23 PCTs, plus one labelled "not classified" mapped within Ryde LGA).

For the remnant PCT's their context influences greatly their level of protection and resilience.



Blue Gum High Forest - Darvall Park

PLANT COMMUNITY TYPE (PCT)	PCT ID	≈ AREA (ha)	FORMATION	VEGETATION CLASS
Blue Gum High Forest	3136	50.17	Wet Sclerophyll Forests (Shrubby sub-formation)	North Coast Wet Sclerophyll Forests
Cumberland Red Gum Riverflat Forest	4025	0.44	Forested Wetlands	Coastal Floodplain Wetlands
Estuarine Reedland	3963	1.06	Freshwater Wetlands	Coastal Freshwater Lagoons
Estuarine Sea Rush Swamp Oak Forest	4026	0.43	Forested Wetlands	Coastal Floodplain Wetlands
Estuarine Swamp Oak Twig-rush Forest	4028	2.06	Forested Wetlands	Coastal Floodplain Wetlands
Estuarine Swamp Oak-Mangrove Forest	4027	1.61	Forested Wetlands	Coastal Floodplain Wetlands
Grey Mangrove-River Mangrove Forest	4091	12.99	Saline Wetlands	Mangrove Swamps
Lower North Coastal Hills Red Gum Grassy Forest	3445	0.59	Dry Sclerophyll Forests (Shrub /grass sub-formation)	Hunter-Macleay Dry Sclerophyll Forests
Northern Sydney Heath-Mallee	3807	9.58	Heathlands	Sydney Coastal Heaths
Northern Sydney Scribbly Gum Woodland	3586	18.00	Dry Sclerophyll Forests (Shrubby sub-formation)	Sydney Coastal Dry Sclerophyll Forests
Samphire Saltmarsh	4097	0.40	Saline Wetlands	Saltmarshes
Southern Sydney Rockplate Heath	3810	0.88	Heathlands	Sydney Coastal Heaths
Sydney Coastal Coachwood Gallery Rainforest	3038	5.75	Rainforests	Northern Warm Temperate Rainforests
Sydney Coastal Enriched Sandstone Forest	3592	124.98	Dry Sclerophyll Forests (Shrubby sub-formation)	Sydney Coastal Dry Sclerophyll Forests
Sydney Coastal Foreshores Gully Rainforest	3040	0.49	Rainforests	Northern Warm Temperate Rainforests
Sydney Coastal Sandstone Bloodwood Shrub Forest	3593	20.34	Dry Sclerophyll Forests (Shrubby sub-formation)	Sydney Coastal Dry Sclerophyll Forests
Sydney Coastal Sandstone Foreshores Forest	3594	3.45	Dry Sclerophyll Forests (Shrubby sub-formation)	Sydney Coastal Dry Sclerophyll Forests
Sydney Coastal Sandstone Gully Forest	3595	57.05	Dry Sclerophyll Forests (Shrubby sub-formation)	Sydney Coastal Dry Sclerophyll Forests
Sydney Coastal Sandstone Riparian Scrub	4086	0.35	Forested Wetlands	Eastern Riverine Forests
Sydney Coastal Shale-Sandstone Forest	3259	24.72	Wet Sclerophyll Forests (Grassy sub-formation)	Northern Hinterland Wet Sclerophyll Forests
Sydney Enriched Sandstone Moist Forest	3176	53.64	Wet Sclerophyll Forests (Shrubby sub-formation)	North Coast Wet Sclerophyll Forests
Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest	3262	29.94	Wet Sclerophyll Forests (Shrubby sub-formation)	Northern Hinterland Wet Sclerophyll Forests
Western Sydney Complex Dry Rainforest	3082	2.45	Rainforests	Dry Rainforests
Total PCT vegetation		**421.36**		



Figure 5.5 Pre clearing PCT's in Ryde

Ryde Biodiversity Strategy 2026

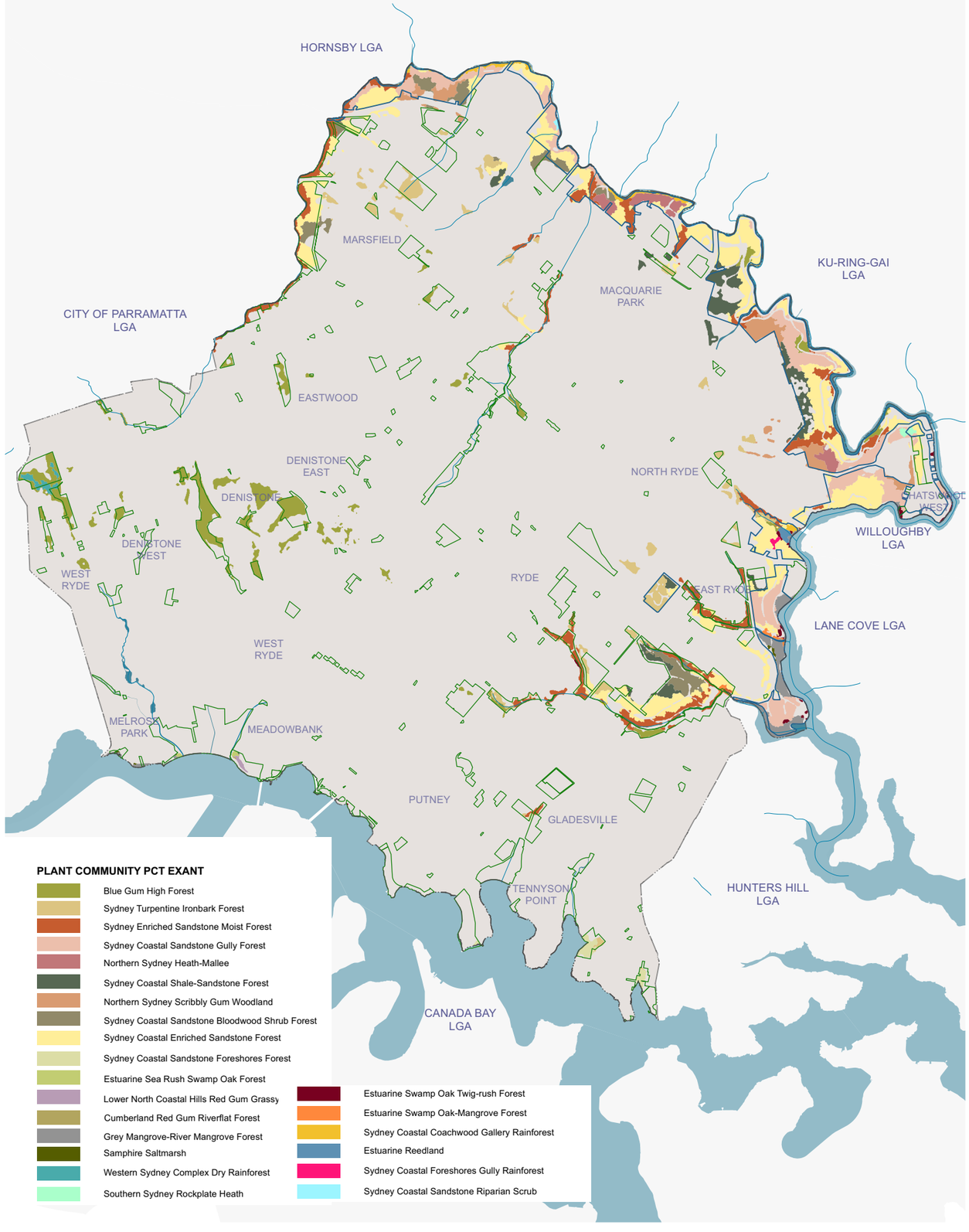


Figure 5.6 PCT EXTANT in Ryde

Ryde Biodiversity Strategy 2026

FLORA

Data from ecological surveys conducted in reserves within the Ryde LGA between 2005 and 2018 have been submitted to the NSW BioNet Atlas. The dataset indicates more than 570 species of native plants have been recorded in Ryde's natural areas.

The 2016 Ryde Biodiversity Plan noted the trend of declining conservation status of native flora, including localised extinctions. A total of 13 threatened flora species listed under the NSW and/or Commonwealth legislation were recorded in the 2016 Plan, but only five of these species were located in a conservation reserve and one of these was presumed extinct.

There is potential that 2018 and 2017 Ryde Flora and Fauna survey data has not been included on BioNet.

THREATENED FLORA

Common Name	Scientific Name	NSW BC Act status	EPBC Act status
Netted Bottle Brush	*Callistemon linearifolius*	Vulnerable	Not listed
	Darwinia biflora	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
*Giant Spear Lily	*Doryanthes palmeri*	Vulnerable	Not listed
	Epacris purpurescens var purpurescens	Vulnerable	Not listed
*Sparse Heath	*Epacris sparsa*	Endangered	Endangered
*Yellow Gum	*Eucalyptus leucoxylon subsp. pruinosa*	Vulnerable	Not listed
*Narrow-leaved Black Peppermint	*Eucalyptus nicholii*	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
*Wallangarra White Gum	*Eucalyptus scoparia*	Endangered	Vulnerable
Julian's Hibbertia	*Hibbertia spanantha*	Critically Endangered	Critically Endangered
Macadamia Nut	*Macadamia integrifolia*	Not Listed	Vulnerable
*Rough-shelled Bush Nut	*Macadamia tetraphylla*	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
Deane's Paperbark	*Melaleuca deanii*	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
	Pimelea curviflora ssp curviflora	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
Magenta Lilly Pilly	*Syzygium paniculatum*	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
Narrow-leafed Wilsonia	*Wilsonia backhousei*	Vulnerable	Not listed

Threatened species information for Ryde LGA sourced from NSW BioNet Atlas 2026, based on an event date range from 2005 to August 2026. Species with an * have been recorded in the LGA, but are not within their naturally occurring range. 15 species are listed with 86 records, 6 species are outside their natural range.



Epacris purpurascens var purpurascens image: OEH/ Orkology



Doryanthes palmeri image: OEH



Syzygium paniculatum image: OEH/ Orkology



Melaleuca deanii image: Australian Plant Society NSW



Darwinia biflora image: OEH/ Orkology



Pimelea curviflora var curviflora image: OEH/ DEC

SIGNIFICANT TREES

The Significant Tree Register was created to recognise and preserve trees with unique historical, cultural or botanical significance and also acknowledges the significant value of Avenue plantings and stands of trees. These trees enrich the city's heritage and contribute to a healthier environment. Listing within the register increases protection, particularly with regards to development.

The register includes trees on public spaces and privately owned properties and offers guidelines for their responsible management and protection for future generations.

The register is continually evolving, as trees reach the end of their life cycle and new additions are recognized.
The register operates as a centralised database, providing detailed information about each tree and its significance. However, removal of trees is not prohibited, and approval for maintenance or minor pruning is processed through the Council's Tree Management Application process.

Significant trees include native non endemic and exotic tree species.

FAUNA

Fauna surveys within Ryde LGA have been previously undertaken (2006, 2007 and 2008) and (2016, 2017 and 2018). Fauna sightings have also been recorded by contractors during bush regeneration activities.

Ryde is typical of most highly urbanised LGA's within Sydney that have seen a pattern of biodiversity loss over time.

THREATENED FAUNA

Common Name	Scientific Name	NSW BC Act status	EPBC Act status
Amphibians			
Red-crowned Toadlet	*Pseudophryne australis*	Vulnerable	Not Listed
Bats			
Large-eared Pied Bat	*Chalinolobus dwyeri*	Endangered	Endangered
Eastern False Pipistrelle	*Falsistrellus tasmaniensis*	Vulnerable	Not Listed
Little Bent-winged Bat	*Miniopterus australis*	Vulnerable	Not Listed
Large Bent-winged Bat	*Miniopterus orianae oceanensis*	Vulnerable	Not Listed
Southern Myotis	*Myotis macropus*	Vulnerable	Not Listed
Grey-headed Flying-fox	*Pteropus poliocephalus*	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
Yellow-bellied Sheathtail-bat	*Saccolaimus flaviventris*	Vulnerable	Not Listed
Greater Broad-nosed Bat	*Scoteanax rueppellii*	Vulnerable	Not Listed
Birds			
Pale-vented Bush-hen	*Amaurornis moluccana*	Vulnerable	Not Listed
Australasian Bittern	*Botaurus poiciloptilus*	Endangered	Endangered
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	*Haliaeetus leucogaster*	Vulnerable	Not Listed
Little Eagle	*Hieraaetus morphnoides*	Vulnerable	Not Listed
White-throated Needletail	*Hirundapus caudacutus*	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
Black Bittern	*Ixobrychus flavicollis*	Vulnerable	Not Listed
Swift Parrot	*Lathamus discolor*	Endangered	Critically Endangered
Pink Cockatoo	*Lophochroa leadbeateri*	Vulnerable	Endangered
Square-tailed Kite	*Lophoictinia isura*	Vulnerable	Not Listed
Turquoise Parrot	*Neophema pulchella*	Vulnerable	Not Listed
Powerful Owl	*Ninox strenua*	Vulnerable	Not Listed
Sooty Tern	*Onychoprion fuscatus*	Vulnerable	Not Listed
Little Lorikeet	*Parvipsitta pusilla*	Vulnerable	Not Listed
Scarlet Robin	*Petroica boodang*	Vulnerable	Not Listed
Grey Plover	*Pluvialis squatarola*	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
Eastern Hooded Dotterel	*Thinornis cucullatus cucullatus*	Critically Endangered	Vulnerable
Marsupials			
Eastern Pygmy-possum	*Cercartetus nanus*	Vulnerable	Not Listed
Squirrel Glider	*Petaurus norfolcensis*	Vulnerable	Not Listed
Koala	*Phascolarctos cinereus*	Endangered	Endangered
Reptiles			
Woma	*Aspidites ramsayi*	Vulnerable	Not Listed
Loggerhead Turtle	*Caretta caretta*	Endangered	Endangered
Green Turtle	*Chelonia mydas*	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
Mallee Slender Blue-tongue Lizard	*Cyclodomorphus melanops elongatus*	Endangered	Not Listed
Centralian Blue-tongued Lizard	*Tiliqua multifasciata*	Vulnerable	Not Listed
Western Blue-tongued Lizard	*Tiliqua occipitalis*	Vulnerable	Not Listed
Border Thick-tailed Gecko	*Uvidicolus sphyrurus*	Vulnerable	Vulnerable

Threatened species information for Ryde LGA has been sourced from NSW BioNet Atlas 2026, based on an event date range from 2006 to August 2026.

35 threatened species are listed with 555 records.



Ixobrychus flavicollis image: OEH



Pseudophryne australis image: OEH



Parvipsitta pusilla image: DPIE



Cercartetus nanus image: OEH



Pteropus poliocephalus image: DPIE

THREATENED ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES

Threatened ecological communities (TECs) are legal entities that are independently listed under provisions in the BC Act or EPBC Act. Independent scientific committees oversee the listing processes in each jurisdiction. TECs are defined using an assemblage of species and an area, and not all are plant assemblages.

TECs recorded in the Ryde LGA are as indicated on Figure 3.5.

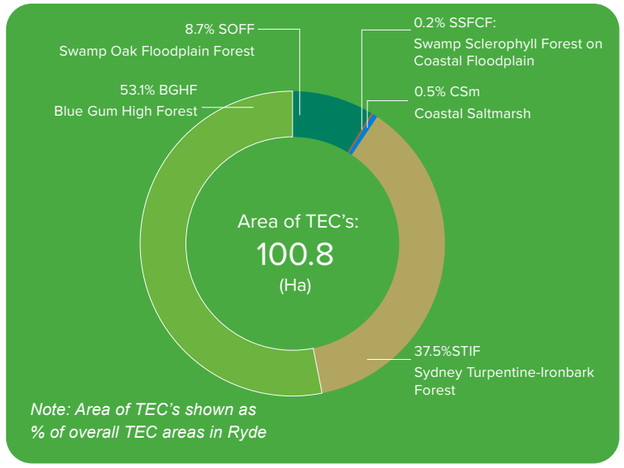


Figure 3.3 Threatened Ecological Communities within Ryde LGA

Ryde Biodiversity Strategy 2026

TEC'S IN RYDE AT A GLANCE

OCCURRENCE	BC ACT STATUS (NSW)	EPBC ACT STATUS (COMMONWEALTH)
Blue Gum High Forest		
• In 2000 there was less than 200 hectares remaining (about 4.5% of its original extent). • It only occurs in small remnants of which the largest is less than 20 hectares. *(source: https://threatenedspecies.bionet.nsw.gov.au/profile?id=10094)*	Blue Gum High Forest in the Sydney Basin Bioregion is a critically endangered ecological community (CEEC)	Blue Gum High Forest in the Sydney Basin Bioregion is a CEEC
Coastal Saltmarsh		
• Saltmarshes are globally threatened, and many of the threatening processes identified by Adam (2002) operate in NSW including infilling, modified tidal flow, weed invasion, damage by domestic and feral animals, human disturbance, altered fire regimes and climate change. https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/threatened-species/nsw-	Coastal Saltmarsh in the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions is an endangered ecological community (EEC)	Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh is a vulnerable ecological community
Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest		
• This community is found on the coastal floodplains of NSW. • The remaining area of Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest is likely to represent much less than 30% of its original range. (https://threatenedspecies.bionet.nsw.gov.au/profile?id=10945)	Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest of NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions is an EEC	Coastal Swamp Oak (Casuarina glauca) Forest of NSW and SE Qld is an EEC
Swamp Sclerophyll Forest on Coastal Floodplains		
• The exact amount of its original extent is unknown but it is much less than 30%.	Swamp Sclerophyll Forest on Coastal Floodplains of the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions is an EEC	Not listed
Sydney Turpentine-Ironbark Forest		
• Occurs in Sydney and is heavily fragmented with only 0.5 percent of its original extent remaining intact. • Good examples can be seen in small reserves such as Wallumatta Nature Reserve *(https://threatenedspecies.bionet.nsw.gov.au/profile?id=10789)*	Sydney Turpentine – Ironbark Forest in the Sydney Basin Bioregion is a CEEC	Turpentine – Ironbark Forest of the Sydney Basin Bioregion is a CEEC

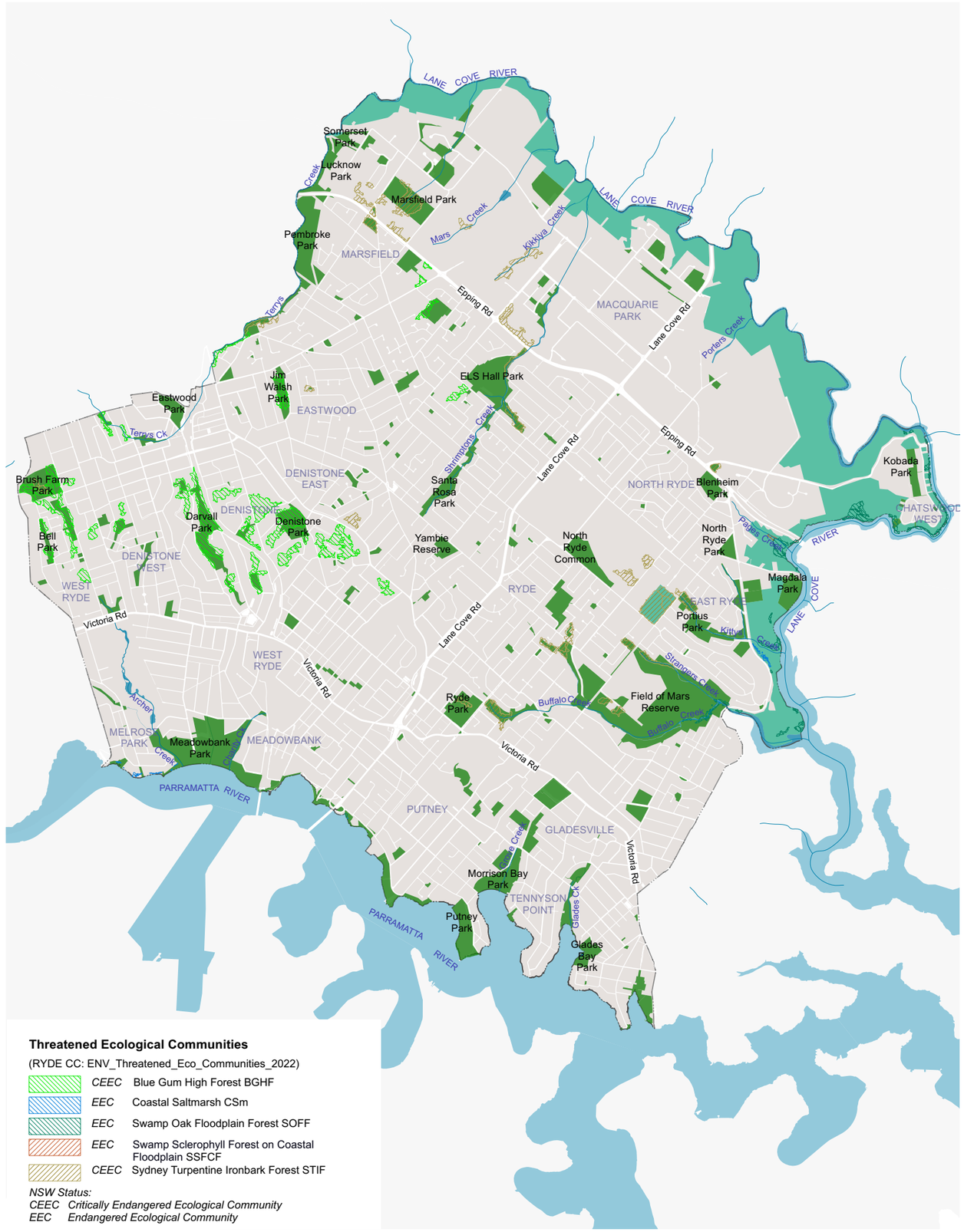


Figure 5.6 Threatened ecological communities in Ryde

Ryde Biodiversity Strategy 2026

HIGH BIODIVERSITY VALUE AREAS

The NSW Government has mapped high biodiversity value areas (the Biodiversity Values Map) to inform decisions about development assessment related to the Biodiversity Offset Scheme. The map is prepared by the DCCEEW under Part 7 of the Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017 based on the following land types (DCCEEW 2025):

- Coastal wetlands and littoral rainforest
- Core koala habitat identified in an approved koala plan of management
- Declared Ramsar wetlands
- Land containing threatened species or TECs identified as having potential for serious and irreversible impacts
- Biodiverse riparian land
- High conservation value grasslands or groundcover
- Old growth forest identified in mapping developed under the national forests policy statement
- Rainforest identified in mapping developed under the national forests policy statement
- Declared areas of outstanding biodiversity value
- Council nominated areas with connectivity or threatened species habitat recommended to the Minister
- Any other land that in the opinion of the environment agency head is of sufficient biodiversity value to be included

The BC Act allows local governments to nominate land to add to the Biodiversity Values Map for consideration by the Minister for the Environment. The land must contain vegetation connectivity features or threatened species habitat and be of bio-regional or state significance. DCCEEW is developing guidelines for council-proposed additions to the Biodiversity Values Map.

The online map is regularly updated and should be referred to rather than the static map below.

There are no Areas of Outstanding Biodiversity Values within the Ryde LGA, as defined under the BC Act.

Wildlife Protection Areas

- Wildlife Protection Areas are public places set aside for the protection of native wildlife under the Companion Animals Act 1998. To better protect our unique native wildlife, the City of Ryde has declared Wildlife Protection Areas in three high conservation bushland corridors.
- Wildlife Protection Areas at Field of Mars Reserve, Kittys Creek corridor and Terrys Creek corridor were endorsed by Council on 27 August 2019.
- There are two categories of Wildlife Protection Areas in the City of Ryde and these areas are outlined below.

Category 1: No cats or dogs allowed at all times

Category 2: No cats allowed at all times, dogs permitted on leash along established tracks.

These areas are declared Wildlife Protection Areas under the Companion Animals Act 1998 sections 14 (1.h) & 30 (1.b)



Buffalo Creek / Field of Mars Reserve

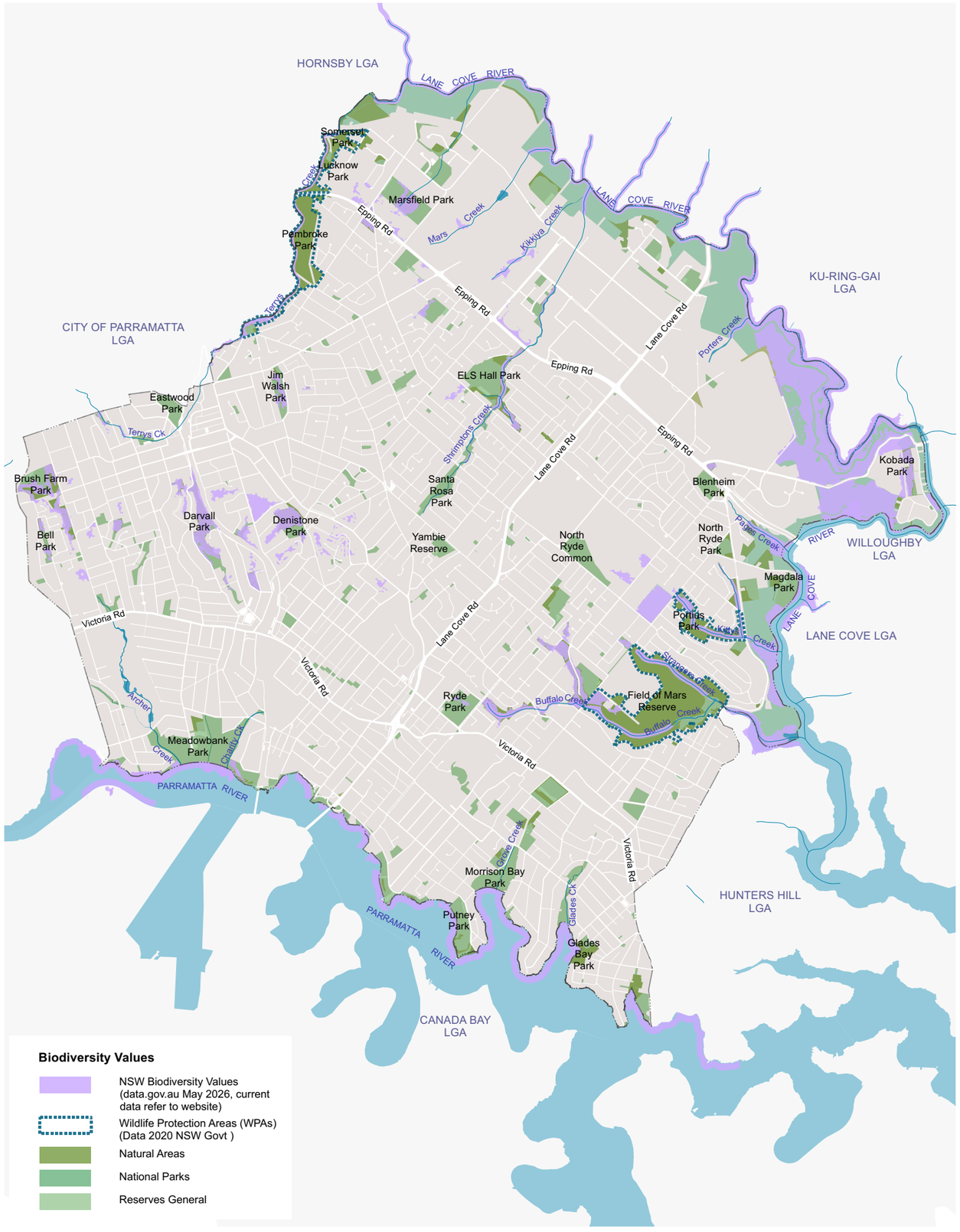


Figure 5.7 High biodiversity values areas in Ryde

Ryde Biodiversity Strategy 2026

CORRIDORS

As noted in 3.4 wildlife corridors are important contributors to fauna habitat quality. However beyond their contribution to habitat, open space corridors typically fulfil multiple roles including for hydrology and for recreational trails.

The most functional wildlife corridor within the Ryde LGA occurs along the Lane Cove River, where vegetation comprising Lane Cove National Park forms a corridor connecting to the riparian habitats of the Parramatta River.

However,overall within the majority of Ryde LGA, the connectivity of bushland areas is discontinuous and interrupted by roads and developed areas.

The principle of conserving and reinforcing green corridors is anchored in NSW Government Policy and Strategy including the Green and Blue Webs, and in strategies such as Breathable Sydney by the Committee for Sydney, in which the "Ryde Greenways" are item 13.

REGIONAL CORRIDORS

Figure 3.7 shows the local and regional connectivity, which is based on a review of previous studies and desktop mapping analysis. The regional biodiversity connectivity occurs along the Lane Cove and Parramatta Rivers with the following five regional connections extending from the Lane Cove River:

1. Terry's Creek Corridor: Somerset Park - Ivanhoe Park - Lucknow Park and Pembroke Park
2. Kittys Creek Corridor: Kittys Creek Reserve – Portius Park – Pryor Park - Wallamatta Nature Reserve – North Ryde Common and North Ryde Golf Course
3. Buffalo Creek Corridor: Field of Mars – Laurel Park – Burrows Park
4. Corridor extending from the Dundas Valley near the western boundary of the LGA to Brush Farm Park – Lambert Park – Lynn Park – West Denistone Park – Darvall Park – Symon's Reserve – Denistone Park.
5. Parramatta River: Morrison Bay Park – Tyagarah Park – Mallee Park – Olympic Park – Pidding Park – Barton Park – Aitchandar Park – Minga Reserve.

LOCAL CORRIDORS

Local connections are mapped within Ryde LGA. Of these, two are connected with the regional Parramatta River corridor as follows:

1 Meadowbank Park – Ryde Parramatta Golf Club – Maze Park

2. Meadowbank Park – West Ryde

Five local connections extend from the Lane Cove River regional corridor and include::

3. Waterloo Park – Trafalgar Reserve – Marsfield Park
4. Though the grounds of the Macquarie University along Mars Creek to Pioneer Park
5. Though the grounds of the Macquarie University along Kikkiya Creek
6. Strangers Creek – Through Field of Mars Reserve to North Ryde Common
7. Pages Creek – Blenheim Park – Bundara Reserve

A local connection in the centre of the LGA consists of:

8. Shrimptons Creek Corridor: Elouera Reserve – Wilga Park – Quandong Reserve – Booth Reserve - ELS Hall Park – Greenwood Park – Tindarra Reserve – Flinders Park – Santa Rosa Park.

A local connection extends from the Terry's Creek regional corridor and includes:

9. Forsyth Park - Forrester Park - Yarramar Reserve and Jim Walsh Park.

OTHER POTENTIAL CONNECTIONS

Other potential connections that have scope to play a role in habitat connectivity include:

A The existing County Road Reserve which is unlikely to be invoked for vehicular transport infrastructure and offers potential for a multifunctional linkage including active transport and habitat connectivity

B Gaps between existing corridors which could be prioritised to improve connectivity

C Greenlinks Masterplan opportunities for ecological connections

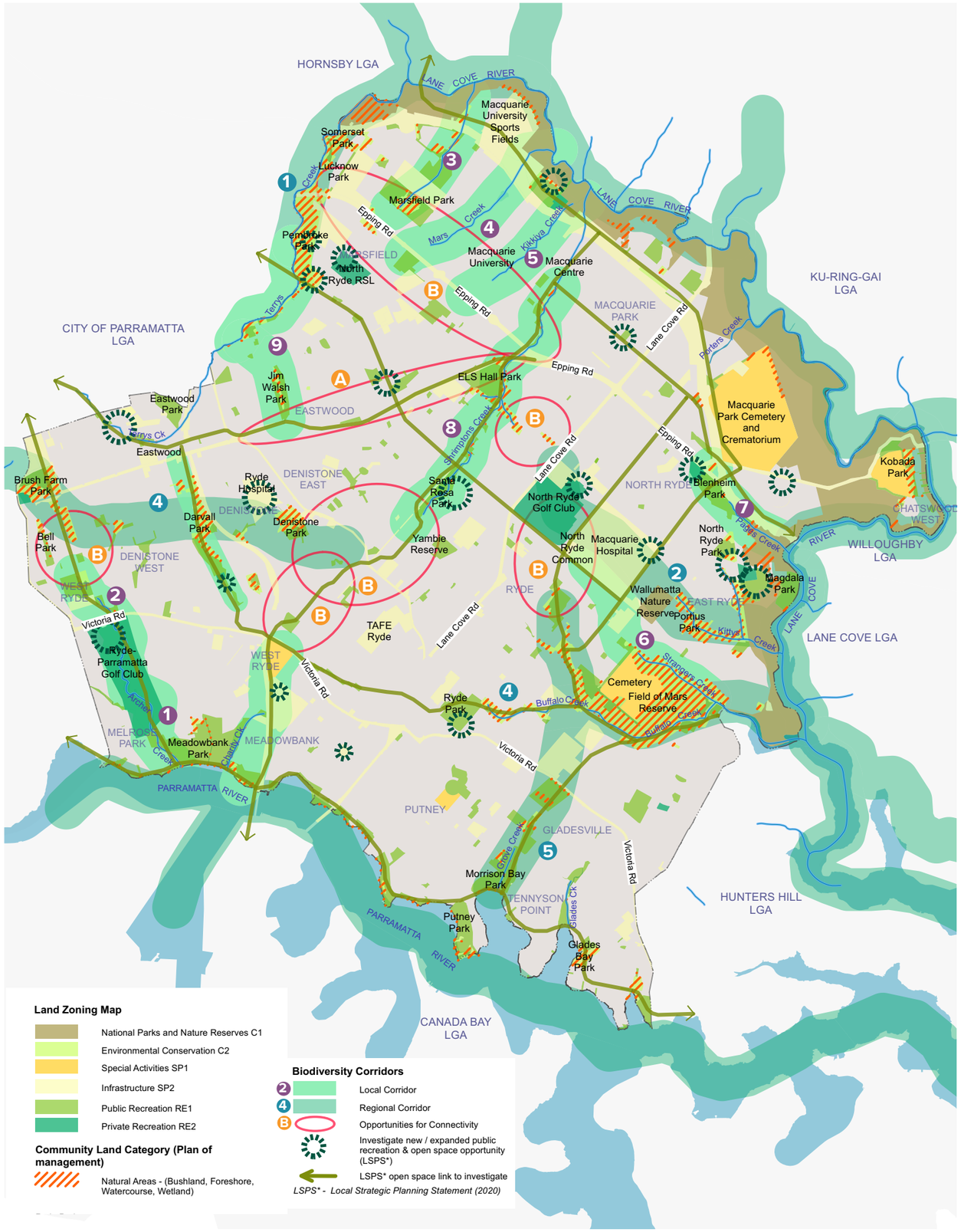


Figure 5.8 Corridor strategies -2016 Biodiversity Strategy and recent planning

Ryde Biodiversity Strategy 2026

THREATS AND CHALLENGES TO BE OVERCOME

The 2016 Biodiversity Plan informed Council's operational planning and funding, and supported grant funding applications. However, pressures on local biodiversity continue.

The main threats to Ryde's biodiversity are ongoing habitat loss and fragmentation, pollution, invasive species, and direct human disturbance. Climate change is an overarching pressure that can cause heat-stress and reduce habitat quality.

HABITAT CLEARING

Habitat loss and fragmentation from urban expansion and densification are the primary drivers of biodiversity decline in the Ryde LGA. Vegetation clearing and fragmentation leaves small, isolated patches of native vegetation that support fewer species, have reduced genetic diversity and are more exposed to edge effects such as weed invasion, altered microclimate and increased human intrusion. Increasing fragmentation and loss of habitat across the LGA means that less mobile, cover-dependent fauna and flora species with limited seed dispersal tend to become locally extinct. Development encroaching on narrowly vegetated riparian corridors is of particular concern because these are the main biodiversity corridors in the Ryde LGA.

Pressures to increase housing and infrastructure to cater for a growing population are largely driven by State and Commonwealth governments' policies and legislation. Ryde City's population is expected to grow from about 140,000 to 190,000 by 2041. Additional development to meet this rapid population growth will place substantial pressure on the open space network (IOSS 2026), including natural areas and biodiversity.

INVASIVE AND OVERABUNDANT SPECIES

Ryde's urban environment favours generalist and invasive species, leading to biotic homogenisation (reduced biodiversity) where a few tolerant species dominate. Invasive and overabundant species out-compete or prey on natives and transform ecosystems. Council and the community have shared responsibilities to control pests and weeds under the NSW Biosecurity Act 2015.

WEEDS

The City of Ryde Local Priority Weed Management Plan aligns with the Greater Sydney Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan under the NSW Biosecurity Act 2015. It directs local landholders and council actions to prevent, contain, and eradicate high-risk invasive plants.

Weeds classification for management is now divided into three priority categories:

1. State

2. Regional

3. Local

State and regional priority weeds were identified through the Biosecurity Act 2015 and the Greater Sydney Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017-2022 where the 'Invasion Curve' is key and the outcomes for these weeds demonstrate compliance with the General Biosecurity Duty.

Varroa mite

Varroa destructor, the Varroa mite, is an external parasitic mite that attacks and feeds on honey bees and is one of the most damaging honey bee pests in the world. A significant mite infestation leads to the death of a honey bee colony, usually in the late autumn through early spring bees died.

There has been decline in pollination and seed production in Ryde observed by Environmental Groups.

Bee populations require assistance through hive provision and other management strategies to assist recovery. The Habitat Nursery in Ryde has a native bee program in place currently.

Invasive / overabundant bird species

The River to River Wildlife Corridors Project identified that the Noisy Miner and Rainbow Lorikeet continue to dominate the Ryde area, particularly in the parkland and urban neighbourhood sites. Noisy Miners were either feeding fledged young or nestlings at most sites, especially in flowering callistemon, grevillea, melaleuca and tallowwood and tibouchina in street verges and front and back yards

The introduced Common Myna was present in significant numbers at urban neighbourhood sites comprising old exposed house eaves and gutters (nest sites) and rubbish bins.

Planting and creating dense understoreys within our garden spaces provide habitat and protection for fauna species and the planting of natives (specific to the local area) help regenerate disconnected bushland.

These dense understoreys (thick small bushes and thickets) are not favoured by the Noisy Miner or Indian (Common) Myna birds but are favourable to the smaller bird species who once dominated the landscape.

Phytophthora

Phytophthora (specifically Phytophthora cinnamomi) is recognized as a potential and active threat across the broader Sydney region, and City of Ryde Street Tree Masterplan and local bushland management documents explicitly account for it as a root-rot risk to native and introduced plants.

It thrives in damp, poorly drained soils and attacks fine plant roots, causing dieback and collar rot. The City of Ryde monitors and plans for soil-borne pathogens in local reserves to protect vulnerable urban bushland vegetation





Top: Varroa mite on Bee
Credit: Australian Bee Council

Bottom: Noisy Miner bird

POLLUTION AND ALTERED URBAN ENVIRONMENTS

Changes to air, water and soil quality and increases in noise, and artificial light, degrades habitats and interferes with species behaviour, physiology and reproduction. Air and water pollution from vehicles, industry and stormwater runoff decrease survival and reproduction of many urban species and simplify community composition. Urban waterways feature channelisation, altered hydrology and contamination, which destroy aquatic and riparian habitats and reduce connectivity along river corridors. Noise and artificial light at night change animal movement, feeding and communication. Trampling, litter, arson and vandalism reduce habitat quality.

Local examples include:

- Macro and microplastics pollution in runoff
- Light directed into bushland or night-sky.

INAPPROPRIATE FIRE REGIMES

The Hunters Hill / Lane Cove / Parramatta / Ryde Bush Fire Risk Management Plan 2024 (BFRMP) was informed by a risk assessment and consultation and prepared in accordance with the Rural Fires Act 1997. Human settlement, economic, environmental and cultural assets were considered in the BFRMP. Environmental considerations included the presence of threatened species, fire sensitive vegetation communities such as wetlands and rainforests, and bush regeneration areas. The Field of Mars and Macquarie Park were identified as focus areas in the BFRMP due to their risk profile.

There is growing community support for ecological burns and cultural burns, which are planned, low-intensity fires. Both use fire to care for land, but they differ in purpose, authority, and practice. Cultural burns are guided by Indigenous knowledge, responsibilities to Country, and often include goals like supporting food plants, medicines, ceremony, and community connection. Ecological burns aim to improve ecosystem health, help native species, and maintain fire-adapted habitats.



Water quality monitoring - Ryde Council

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change and urban heat islands compound other pressures on biodiversity, pushing sensitive species beyond physiological limits and altering species interactions. Climate and disaster risks include heatwaves, flooding, storm surges and sea-level rise, which threaten both people and biodiversity and interact with existing stresses. Urban heat islands raise local temperatures, shifting species' thermal niches and contributing to range contractions for heat-sensitive species.

Local examples include:

- Climate impacting the maintenance and quality of open space areas
- Climate change is placing a greater requirement for Council to consider stormwater asset capacity, which can impact natural areas.

OTHER CHALLENGES

Other challenges that have been identified since the 2016 Biodiversity Plan include:

Resources

- No in-house biodiversity officer for DA assessments or other matters
- Lack of budget dedicated to biodiversity and limited resources allocated to biodiversity

Education and Understanding

- Simply having a biodiversity policy/strategy does not just make people value biodiversity
- Limited biodiversity awareness for visitors and locals
- More awareness around biodiversity-sensitive design
- Increased visitation / tourism demand for bush walking and bushland areas
- Spaces are being used more for social/cultural gatherings

On-ground management

- Conflict of use e.g. long grass for habitat
- Public domain cleaning – resulting in the removal of native vegetation during works and the subsequent loss of habitat and food sources for wildlife
- Loss of deep soil areas
- Increase in use of synthetic turf.



Fire management must balance the risk of high intensity fire on habitat and ecological processes

ATTACHMENT 3

LISTING OF NATURAL AREAS IN RYDE

RESERVE NAME	SUBURB	PARK HIERARCHY	NATURAL AREA (M2)	PARK (M2)	SPORT (M2)	GENERAL COM'TY USE (M2)	TOTAL (M2)	NATURAL AREA %
CHRISTIE PARK	Macquarie Park	REGIONAL	7759	15848	20981	8738	53326	14.55%
ELS HALL PARK	Marsfield	REGIONAL	32877	33763	52963	3571	123174	26.69%
FIELD OF MARS RESERVE	North Ryde	REGIONAL	461079	31104		229	492412	93.64%
MEADOWBANK PARK	Meadowbank	REGIONAL	10197	64301	167136	7091	248725	4.10%
PUTNEY PARK	Putney	REGIONAL	11035	56677		3968	71680	15.39%
BARTON RESERVE	Ryde	DISTRICT	38387				38387	100.00%
BOOBAJOOL RESERVE	East Ryde	DISTRICT	7011		9206		16217	43.23%
BREMNER PARK	Gladesville	DISTRICT	1430	10531	9668		21629	6.61%
BRUSH FARM PARK	Eastwood	DISTRICT	51633	18565	11457		81655	63.23%
BURROWS PARK	Ryde	DISTRICT	36709			1490	38199	96.10%
DARVALL PARK	West Ryde	DISTRICT	54370	24205	3438	5602	87615	62.06%
DENISTONE PARK	Denistone East	DISTRICT	40560	18811			59371	68.32%
FORSYTH PARK	Eastwood	DISTRICT	17729				17729	100.00%
GANNAN PARK	Ryde	DISTRICT	9495	15769	19875		45139	21.04%
GLADES BAY PARK	Gladesville	DISTRICT	27052	7684			34736	77.88%
GREENWOOD PARK	North Ryde	DISTRICT	24685				24685	100.00%
GWANDALAN RESERVE	North Ryde	DISTRICT	810		11189	3038	15037	5.39%
JIM WALSH PARK	Eastwood	DISTRICT	9756	28009			37765	25.83%
KISSING POINT PARK	Putney	DISTRICT	8420	35058		244	43722	19.26%
KOBADA PARK	Chatswood West	DISTRICT	28117	5070			33187	84.72%
LAMBERT PARK	Eastwood	DISTRICT	25742			193	25935	99.26%
LOOKING GLASS BAY PARK	Gladesville	DISTRICT	18625	2411			21036	88.54%
LUCKNOW PARK	Marsfield	DISTRICT	48943				48943	100.00%
MAGDALA PARK	East Ryde	DISTRICT	1092	26765	20743		48600	2.25%
MARSFIELD PARK	Marsfield	DISTRICT	28125	28990	35995	943	94053	29.90%
MEMORIAL PARK	Meadowbank	DISTRICT	8510	28367			36877	23.08%
MORRISON BAY PARK	Putney	DISTRICT	6061	25811	53825	9443	95140	6.37%
NORTH RYDE PARK	North Ryde	DISTRICT	4599	7438	9451		21488	21.40%
PEMBROKE PARK	Marsfield	DISTRICT	130418				130418	100.00%
PIDDING PARK	Ryde	DISTRICT	13085	15937	15724	710	45456	28.79%
PORTIUS PARK	East Ryde	DISTRICT	53490				53490	100.00%
SANTA ROSA PARK	Ryde	DISTRICT	1093	28555	11867	5423	46938	2.33%
SETTLERS PARK	Putney	DISTRICT	6450	13434			19884	32.44%
WATERLOO PARK	Marsfield	DISTRICT	13249	40019	12586		65854	20.12%
WILGA PARK	Macquarie Park	DISTRICT	6774	11953			18727	36.17%
AITCHANDAR PARK	Ryde	NEIGHBOURHOOD	5901				5901	100.00%
BELL PARK	West Ryde	NEIGHBOURHOOD	4707	14214			18921	24.88%

RESERVE NAME	SUBURB	PARK HIERARCHY	NATURAL AREA (M2)	PARK (M2)	SPORT (M2)	GENERAL COM'TY USE (M2)	TOTAL (M2)	NATURAL AREA %
BILL MITCHELL PARK	Tennyson Point	NEIGHBOURHOOD	2178	9502	12074	47	23801	9.15%
BRAEMAR PARK	Eastwood	NEIGHBOURHOOD	134	5166			5300	2.53%
BRERETON PARK	Meadowbank	NEIGHBOURHOOD	3486	9616		616	13718	25.41%
FIELDER PARK	Putney	NEIGHBOURHOOD	8602				8602	100.00%
FLINDERS PARK	Ryde	NEIGHBOURHOOD	3127	9267			12394	25.23%
FORRESTER PARK	East Ryde	NEIGHBOURHOOD	8461	6557			15018	56.34%
GLEN RESERVE	Gladesville	NEIGHBOURHOOD	561	10014		242	10817	5.19%
HELENE PARK / MEADOWBANK WHARF	Eastwood	NEIGHBOURHOOD	578	5821		5031	11430	5.06%
IVANHOE RESERVE	Meadowbank	NEIGHBOURHOOD	8101				8101	100.00%
KITTYS CREEK RESERVE	Putney	NEIGHBOURHOOD	17369				17369	100.00%
LYNN PARK	Ryde	NEIGHBOURHOOD	8262	4478			12740	64.85%
MALLEE RESERVE	East Ryde	NEIGHBOURHOOD	5251	112			5363	97.91%
MARTIN RESERVE	Gladesville	NEIGHBOURHOOD	17432				17432	100.00%
MAZE PARK	Eastwood	NEIGHBOURHOOD	779	18504			19283	4.04%
MCCAULEY PARK	Meadowbank	NEIGHBOURHOOD	1563	4055			5618	27.82%
MELROSE PARK	Putney	NEIGHBOURHOOD	2034	3808			5842	34.82%
MIDGEE RESERVE	Ryde	NEIGHBOURHOOD	2889	2932			5821	49.63%
MIRIAM PARK	East Ryde	NEIGHBOURHOOD	6213	3479			9692	64.10%
OUTLOOK PARK	Gladesville	NEIGHBOURHOOD	6478				6478	100.00%
PRYOR PARK	Eastwood	NEIGHBOURHOOD	7334			697	8031	91.32%
SOMERSET PARK	Meadowbank	NEIGHBOURHOOD	15675				15675	100.00%
STEWART PARK	Putney	NEIGHBOURHOOD	9557	680			10237	93.36%
SYMONS RESERVE	Eastwood	NEIGHBOURHOOD	4924	4039			8963	54.94%
TASMAN PARK	Macquarie Park	NEIGHBOURHOOD	10895				10895	100.00%
TINDARRA RESERVE	North Ryde	NEIGHBOURHOOD	2733	4882			7615	35.89%
TYAGARAH PARK	Gladesville	NEIGHBOURHOOD	4894	7764	5598		18256	26.81%
TYRELL PARK	North Ryde	NEIGHBOURHOOD	1723	7860		736	10319	16.70%
BENNELONG PARK	Putney	POCKET	265	2464			2729	9.71%
BOOTH RESERVE	Marsfield	POCKET	3229				3229	100.00%
BUNDARA RESERVE	North Ryde	POCKET	3913				3913	100.00%
HUBERT HUNT RESERVE	Eastwood	POCKET	676				676	100.00%
KOONADAN RESERVE	West Ryde	POCKET	353	1030			1383	25.52%
KORPIE RESERVE	Melrose Park	POCKET	617	1372			1989	31.02%
LAUREL PARK	Ryde	POCKET	1610				1610	100.00%
MEDITATION PARK	Gladesville	POCKET	53	1098			1151	4.60%
MINGA RESERVE	Ryde	POCKET	3017				3017	100.00%

Attachment 3: Listing of Natural Areas in the City of Ryde

RESERVE NAME	SUBURB	PARK HIERARCHY	NATURAL AREA (M2)	PARK (M2)	SPORT (M2)	GENERAL COM'TY USE (M2)	TOTAL (M2)	NATURAL AREA %
MYALL RESERVE	Ryde	POCKET	1564				1564	100.00%
PINDARI PARK	North Ryde	POCKET	4166				4166	100.00%
QUEBEC RESERVE	North Ryde	POCKET	2106				2106	100.00%
RAFFERTY RESERVE	East Ryde	POCKET	1040				1040	100.00%
TIRRIWAN RESERVE (LACHLAN'S LINE)	Macquarie Park	POCKET	4337				4337	100.00%
ULMARRA PARK	Chatswood West	POCKET	4304				4304	100.00%
UNNAMED PARK - WESTMINSTER ROAD	Gladesville	POCKET	81	1103			1184	6.84%
YARRAMAR RESERVE	Eastwood	POCKET	1276				1276	100.00%
YURRAH RESERVE	Macquarie Park	POCKET	2792				2792	100.00%
ALSTON PARK	Macquarie Park	REGIONAL (NSW GOV)	4023				4023	100.00%
CALDEW RESERVE	Macquarie Park	REGIONAL (NSW GOV)	6261				6261	100.00%
BANOOL RESERVE	North Ryde	REGIONAL (NSW GOV)	16658				16658	100.00%
NUNDAH RESERVE	North Ryde	REGIONAL (NSW GOV)	11067				11067	100.00%
WALLUMATTA NATURE RESERVE	North Ryde	REGIONAL (NSW GOV)	61479				61479	100.00%
YINNELL RESERVE	North Ryde	REGIONAL (NSW GOV)	10199				10199	100.00%
LANE COVE NATIONAL PARK	Chatswood West	REGIONAL (NSW GOV)	2648640				2648640	100.00%

City of Ryde

Lifestyle and opportunity at your doorstep

